CANADA'S SECOND PROGRESS REPORT

ON

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security

In Response to the
World Food Summit Plan
of Action

Canada

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Publication Number: 2132/E, 2002
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Ce document est disponible en français sous le titre de :
« Deuxième rapport d'étape du Canada sur la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Canada pour la sécurité alimentaire, en réponse au Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. »

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Canada's Second Progress Report

to the

FAO Committee on World Food Security

on the implementation of

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security

in response to the

World Food Summit Plan of Action

May 2002

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The World Food Summit (WFS) was called in 1996 in response to the continued existence of widespread undernutrition and growing concern about agriculture's capacity to meet future food needs. Summit participants determined that: "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." In its publication, The *State of Food Insecurity in the World 2001*, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines food insecurity as being "when people live with hunger and fear starvation."

At the WFS in 1996, representatives of 187 countries set a goal to reduce the number of hungry people in the world by half by 2015. This was to be a milestone toward the complete elimination of hunger in the world. The *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* sets out seven commitments that are the basis for achieving sustainable food security for all, and the Plan of Action spells out the objectives and actions for implementation of these seven commitments. In response, *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*[1] was launched in 1998.

Participants at the WFS agreed that a mid-term review would be conducted in 2006, and that member countries would report every two years on their progress in implementing their commitments. In accordance with decisions taken at the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS), member countries are now being asked to report on their progress toward fulfilment of the "development-centred" commitments Three, Four and Six, and relevant parts of Commitment Seven. This Report is a progress report against those "development-centered" commitments as incorporated in Canada's Action Plan, and is compiled from contributions submitted by various Federal, Provincial and Territorial Government departments and agencies, and interested non-governmental and civil society organizations. It is not a policy or strategic document and is not intended to be an all-inclusive report of all relevant activities being carried out by Canadian organizations in Canada or abroad.

Canada's Accomplishments Toward the Development-Centred Commitments

Commitment Three: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Canada has traditionally been a strong supporter of agriculture and rural development, both at home and abroad. Commitment Three is concerned with domestic and international dimensions of sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD), as the report indicates in these notable examples:

- Canada is committed to implementing the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (having been one of the first countries to ratify it in 1992) and continues to host its permanent secretariat in Montreal.

- Canada is committed to implementing the *UN Convention to Combat Desertification*, both as an affected country (the Prairie Provinces, which constitute Canada's largest agricultural area, suffer in part from drought conditions) and in support of developing country efforts within the framework of poverty reduction. Canada's first official report, *Desertification: A Canadian Perspective,* was up-dated in 2000.

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[1] Canada's Action Plan for Food Security is available on the Food Security Bureau Web site http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/fsb/FSB2eng.html

- Canada actively participated in the development of the final text of the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,* and signed the Protocol in April 2001.

- A modern facility for the preservation of plant genetic resources has been established, and Canada was involved in the development of the final text for the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

- Research is being carried out on the development of sustainable crop production systems.

- A National Soil and Water Conservation Program has been established.

- New technology is being developed for livestock production systems to reduce production costs, address the environmental issues related to waste management, and improve product quality and animal health.

- Canada has in place both a national forest strategy and a framework of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and will host the Twelfth World Forestry Congress in 2003.

- Canada is committed to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions. The management and reduction of toxic substances in the environment is a national priority, and appropriate legislation has been enacted. Programs are in place to target persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals and radionuclides. Canada has ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs and is moving towards ratifying the *Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*. Work continues toward the development of a Freshwater Strategy for human and environmental health.

- A number of programs are in place to ensure stable, sustainable fisheries in Canada. These address the conservation and protection of the coastal and marine environments, the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* and other international conventions, and include the development of the *Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations*. The successful implementation of this code earned Canada the FAO's Margarita Lizárraga Medal.

- Canada also supports international and national research, including substantive support to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), regional networks and national agricultural research organizations.

The commitment to these various programs, policies and international conventions is reflected in Canada's Official Developmental Assistance (ODA) programs and the many projects that non-governmental and civil society organizations carry out domestically and internationally. Development assistance in SARD emphasizes the role of women and the poor in decision making, and stresses capacity building in communities and institutions.

Commitment Four: Trade and Food Security

Canada believes that trade and an open well-functioning multilateral trading system plays a key and positive role in enhancing food security. It can facilitate access to a wider range of products at affordable prices, as well as increase opportunities for employment and income. Canada is committed to working through the World Trade Organization (WTO) toward a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system. For Canada, this means a continuation of the agricultural trade reform process to improve market access, to reduce trade- and production-distorting support, and to eliminate export subsidies.

At the same time, trade liberalization alone is not enough to meet the food security needs of developing countries. To achieve agricultural trade reform that takes these needs into account, Canada's trade negotiators, federal government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have begun to discuss the issues and possible measures to address specific concerns, like those of low-income resource poor farmers in developing countries.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group provides an effective forum to exchange views and gain a better understanding of trade and food security issues. Since the start of the WTO agriculture negotiations in 2000, the group has hosted a number of sessions, including discussions on food security as it relates to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), as well as issues related to food aid. Differences in priority remain—official policies focus on further agricultural trade liberalization; civil society is pushing for attention to the development needs of the poor and hungry. In many (though not all instances) these objectives can be complementary. Still, more can be done to support Canada's commitment to ensure that trade and trade policies are conducive to fostering food security, particularly for the poor.

Canada is actively supporting capacity building in developing countries with the aim of promoting effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations and to position them to be better able to take advantage of the opportunities open to them.

Commitment Six: Promoting Investment

Canada is committed to developing initiatives to support a higher quality of life in rural and remote regions of Canada. Because many of the solutions involve more than one federal government department or agency, the Rural Secretariat has been created to work across government lines. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food is designated as the Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs, and is assisted by a Secretary of State (Rural Development). Federal departments and agencies are required to assess the effects of new policies, programs and services on rural Canadians before they may be approved and implemented.

A number of programs improve rural and remote Canadians' access to government programs and services, health care, education, financial resources, economic diversification, partnerships for community development, upgrading of rural infrastructure, provision of opportunities for rural youth, and assistance in leadership and community capacity building. Those include Internet access for rural schools and communities, farm financing, farm safety nets, and business development programs.

Through Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA), support is provided to promote an enabling environment conducive to private sector development, such as market improvement, policy and trade analysis, product diversification and promotion, and micro-finance and micro-enterprise development. Capacity building and joint ventures for private sector initiatives are specifically supported through CIDA's Industrial Cooperation Program. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also carry out a number of international assistance projects.

Commitment Seven: Implementation and Monitoring of the WFS Plan of Action

Canada has fulfilled its obligation to report progress to the CFS. Prior to the development of *Canada's Action Plan For Food Security* in 1998, a report on progress to the end of 1997, *Canadian Government Report to the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Activities Related to the World Food Summit Plan of Action* was prepared and submitted. This was followed by a report on progress in implementing the "people-centred" commitments of Canada's Action Plan to the end of 1999, *Canada's Report to the Committee on World Food Security in Implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action*. Input for these reports was collected from various government departments and agencies, as well as non-governmental and civil society organizations.

Canada has been a lead supporter of better working relationships within the UN and development communities, including results-based management approaches. Canada has been active in the food insecurity and vulnerability information mapping systems (FIVIMS) process, but recognizes that additional work is needed, both domestically and globally, to identify appropriate food security indicators and monitoring methods. In particular, more work is needed so that better quality information can be collected for both program improvement and to fulfil reporting requirements. Canada urges the international community to apply itself to this issue as soon as possible.

Lessons Learned

It is clear that poverty reduction programs are critical, but more specific, targeted food security programming within poverty reduction frameworks, helps to better address food insecurity.

Monitoring of progress on the implementation of the *WFS Plan of Action* relies on the availability and monitoring of reliable food security indicators. With these, an adequate baseline can be established against which to assess progress. More work needs to be done domestically and globally to tackle this issue. While these are developed, existing tools will be used as guides to measure outcomes.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue, including non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector, on public policy issues affecting food security is key to ensuring that food security programming has the maximum effect toward reducing hunger. Canada values its multi-stakeholder approach to addressing food insecurity at both policy and programming levels, and relies on long-standing partnerships to produce sustainable results.

Canada values a knowledge-based approach to solving the problems of food insecurity, and supports the sharing of information from formal research to indigenous knowledge in ways that acknowledge partnerships. Canada is committed to building the capacity of communities and organizations to more fully participate in finding solutions.

Food security programming must address availability, access and utilization issues. This requires a coherent and coordinated multi-sectoral approach which include includes such key areas as agriculture, nutrition, education, water and sanitation and health. In particular, the food-health relationship is an important factor for improving the livelihoods of the poor, both in Canada and internationally.

Civil society feels that progress on implementing the various aspects of the right to food has been slow and that further work is required.

Next Steps

In his presentation to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Prime Minister Chrétien announced that Canada would be increasing its allocation to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by about 8 percent per year, which should result in doubling Canada's current aid performance in eight or nine years.

Prime Minister Chrétien stated, in an address to the World Economic Forum Plenary Session in New York, that debt relief initiatives for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) will continue to be one of Canada's priorities. He noted that Canadian governments have forgiven over $1 billion in foreign debt owed to Canada by developing countries.

In countries where food security is a programming priority, Canada will continue to promote a broad integrated approach in support of food security, including production, access and use, with strong emphasis on women given the important role they play in food production and security. Canada, along with other G8 countries, is committed to the development of an Africa Action Plan in response to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a comprehensive development plan promoted by African leaders. The NEPAD addresses a broad range of crucial issues to Africa's development including agricultural production and poverty reduction. The Prime Minister is promoting the development of Africa as a main theme for the June 2002 G8 meeting being hosted by Canada, and has committed $500 million to a fund for African development.

The Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments are working with the agriculture and agri-food industry to develop an architecture for agricultural policy to contribute to the sector's growth and profitability in the 21st century.

The objective of this new approach is to position the sector as the world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally responsible production. It will also have considerable benefits for Canadians as it will promote increased environmental stewardship and more complete food safety and food quality assurance systems.

Internationally, the approach will be to link all aspects of Canada's international activities related to agriculture, including market development and investment, trade policy, technical issues and international development. Recognizing the importance of capacity building in developing countries, Canada will enhance its efforts to work with countries to share expertise in agriculture and agricultural trade policy.

Canada will continue to promote the importance of a coordinated approach to food insecurity indicators toward the development of an agreed-upon baseline against which to judge progress. Without this, further efforts to report progress will be constrained.

Canada will continue to participate in a number of international fora in order to support the continued development of a coherent international regulatory framework on food security related issues that is both science-based and rules-based. This will benefit all countries, providing producers with stable markets and consumers with safe and high-quality products.

Canada will continue to promote compliance with the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and other environmental undertakings, such as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the *Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent*, in programs and policy support.

The contributing non-governmental and civil society organizations plan to continue their existing programs and projects, paying increased attention to the important links between nutritional programming and other food security issues.

INTRODUCTION

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security recognized that success in addressing the commitments in the *WFS Plan of Action* would require participation from all levels of government and civil society. Much of the local-level delivery of social services to augment government programs is carried out by local civil society organizations. As a result, in order to include a broad range of perspectives, a joint consultative group involving not only federal government officials, but also representatives of provincial governments and non-governmental and civil society organizations was established to develop Canada's Action Plan.

Adequately reporting on all that is taking place in Canada poses a challenge. While reporting on actions within the mandate of specific federal departments has been relatively straightforward, a number of activities in Canada's Action Plan involve multiple stakeholders. As a result, it continues to be important to promote combined and enhanced cooperation among all players. Another challenge is the development of mechanisms to implement, monitor and report on these actions.

The Food Security Bureau, a virtual organization currently located within the Global Affairs Bureau of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), was established as the focal point for information on food security, to keep players abreast of all major food security policies and activities, and to provide information for and encourage awareness among partners, stakeholders and the general public. The Food Security Bureau will continue to include Canadian civil society and non-governmental organizations in Canada's delegations to the FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the World Food Summit: *five years later* (WFS+5), to solicit input from those organizations, and to participate in dialogue with the FAO and other international actors on issues related to food security.

This is a report on Canada's progress on the implementation of the development-centred commitments in the *World Food Summit Plan of Action*, as incorporated in *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*. This is not a policy or strategic document but is a report compiled with input from various federal, provincial and territorial government departments and agencies, as well as interested non-governmental and civil society organizations. While the activities reported are representative of the scope of actions in place, the report should not be considered as an exhaustive catalogue of all relevant activities.

I BACKGROUND

Purpose

In adopting the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *World Food Summit (WFS) Plan of Action* in 1996, Canada committed to reporting to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations every two years on progress in implementing the *WFS Plan of Action's* seven commitments. This document, Canada's second progress report on implementation of Canada's Action Plan, is on the "development-centred" social commitments as outlined in commitments Three, Four and Six, as well as in relevant parts of Commitment Seven. As such, this document reports on significant food security-related policies, programs and activities initiated in Canada between December 1997 (the date of Canada's first report) and the end of 2001. Canada submitted its report on the "people-centred" commitments—One (An Enabling Environment), Two (Access to Food), Five (Emergency Prevention and Preparedness), as well as relevant parts of Seven (Implementation and Monitoring of the WFS Plan of Action) to the end of 1999, in 2000.

Requested Submission

To fulfil reporting requirements for the monitoring of the *WFS Plan of Action* Commitments, this report follows the outline requested by the CFS. The exception is the Implementation Report, which appears in two sections (domestic and international) to conform to *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*. Accordingly, the contents of this report are broken down into the following seven sections:

- Background
- Canada's Food Security Priorities
- Domestic Implementation Report
- International Implementation Report
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps
- Updates on Parts of Canada's First Progress Report (December 1999)

The last section, "Updates on Parts of Canada's First Progress Report (December 1999)", has been added to accommodate the strong desire of some organizations to provide updates on their progress on implementing the commitments they reported on in the first report.

To report on its implementation of the *WFS Plan of Action*, Canada will highlight initiatives that respond directly to the objectives set out in *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security* (*http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/fsb/fsap/fsape.html*). However, this report cannot capture all of the many diverse programs and activities in place, nor can it do justice to their details, especially those at the community level. The report focuses on major accomplishments, lessons learned, and the next steps, as reported by federal, provincial and territorial governments, and by civil society organizations. The report does not analyze the Canadian food security situation; rather, it aims to produce a balanced view, presenting success stories as well as situations where insufficient progress has been made, and acknowledging different points of view. This report will be posted on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Food Security Bureau Web site *www.agr.ca/misb/fsb/FSB2eng.html*.

The Commitment and Action statements in this report are as they appear in Canada's Action Plan. In those instances where there has been a change or correction of name, or where events have overtaken the statement, this is noted without changing the statement concerned.

Institutional Arrangements for WFS Follow-up

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security is Canada's primary response to those commitments that the international community made at the WFS to reduce by half the number of undernourished people no later than the year 2015. Launched on World Food Day (October 16) 1998, *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security* is the result of extensive consultation with various levels of government, civil society and private sector representatives. The priorities for Canadian actions were established collectively under the coordination of a Joint Consultative Group.

Canada's Action Plan encompasses both domestic and international actions. It addresses the seven commitments of the *WFS Plan of Action* and provides a framework for ongoing effort to improve food security in Canada and abroad. The implementation of the Action Plan is a responsibility that the Canadian government shares with its citizens.

The Food Security Bureau established the Joint Consultative Group on Food Security, involving representatives of federal, provincial and territorial departments and agencies, and some 30 non-governmental organizations involved in food security at both the domestic and international levels, to consult on food security issues and for the completion of this report. In addition, an interactive Report Form on the Food Security Bureau's Web site facilitated organizations' input to this report.

Total Population of Canada

1996: 29,671,900
2001: 31,081,900
(Source: Statistics Canada[16])

II CANADA'S FOOD SECURITY PRIORITIES

2.1 Canadian Context

Canadians are fortunate to live in a country where peace, democracy and human rights are enjoyed and respected. In 1960, the Government of Canada passed the *Canadian Bill of Rights*, which is "An Act for the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" for all Canadians. In addition, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been part of Canada's Constitution since 1982.

Canada has a well-organized food and agricultural system, with a history of a safe, stable and abundant food supply. This, combined with a good transportation system and policies to encourage free trade and open borders, has enabled it to be one of the world's major producers and suppliers of high quality food. In part, this is due to Canada's resource base: abundant supplies of fresh water; forests; arable land; marine resources; minerals; and energy. It is also due to Canada's productive and effective agriculture and agri-food sectors, which have traditionally played a major role in Canada's economic prosperity.

Canadians are world leaders in agricultural research and development, with recognized expertise in areas such as sustainable farming practices, cooperatives, biotechnology and sustainable forest management. By sharing this expertise globally, Canada has made very valuable contributions to world food security. This has been recognized by Canada's receipt of the FAO Agricola Medal[2].

Canada ranks high among nations in levels of disposable income and per capita food supplies, and among the lowest in the real cost of food and the share of incomes spent on food. As such, the vast majority of Canada's 31 million people are food secure; however, some groups of people may be more at risk to food insecurity than others, as shown in a number of studies. According to Statistics Canada[3], an estimated 2.5 million people had to compromise[4] the quality of their diet at least once in 1998-99 and during the same period, an additional 0.5 million people worried that they would not have enough to eat. These Canadians, about 10 percent of the population, were considered to be living in conditions that could contribute to food insecurity at some point during 1998-99. While work remains to be done in the area of food insecurity indicators, other criteria such as food bank usage and relative income levels[5] may indicate risk of food insecurity.

Despite long-term efforts to address the problem, food insecurity remains a matter of concern in Canada. Vulnerability to food insecurity in Canada is generally attributed to people on social welfare or with low-income jobs who cannot meet their food requirements without compromising other basic needs. This is often the result of the lack of a secure or adequate income, unemployment, or a limited level of education. Women, children and Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in poverty rates and in the use of food banks. People with physical and mental disabilities, and those with acute or chronic illness, are also considered vulnerable to food insecurity. Canada continues to work to encourage and support its citizens who struggle with food insecurity.

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[2] The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, was presented with this medal, in October 1999, by Dr. Jacques Diouf, -Director General of the FAO.

[3] *Food insecurity in Canadian households*, Health Reports, Statistics Canada, 2001$_3$

[4] 1998-1999 National Population Health Survey – households "food insecure" if answered "yes" to at least one of the following questions: in the past 12 months, did you or anyone in your household worry that there would not be enough to eat because of a lack of money, or not eat the quality or variety of foods that you wanted because of a lack of money, or not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money?

[5] References 9,10,11, 12, 20

Canada's food environment is, like that of any country, complex. Given Canada's federal system of government, the national government shares legislative responsibility with ten provinces and three territories. Many food issues in Canada have different origins and effects, depending on the regions involved. For example, problems of food-insecure people in the North or among First Nations outside of cities cannot necessarily be resolved with the same mechanisms proposed for the food-insecure in rural areas or urban centres. Solutions to food insecurity in Canada require intergovernmental dialogue and coordination, as well as a desire to understand the sources of food insecurity. Furthermore, appropriate legislative and policy initiatives to address the problem of hunger can be undertaken only by the appropriate level of government and the private sector.

Canada's traditional values of broad-based economic growth and social justice are essential underpinnings for food security. The national and provincial social safety net of income support was designed to give citizens essential social services, such as health care and human resource development, to meet their basic needs and provide them with opportunities to improve their circumstances. This, if appropriately funded, along with appropriate and effective federal and provincial legislation, can reduce hunger and promote food security. Nationally, there are programs such as the Youth Employment Strategy, the National Housing and Homelessness Initiative, National Child Benefits, Old Age Security, Aboriginal initiatives and many health and education programs which aim to support food security for all. These are frequently supplemented and/or complemented by provincial programs. These programs were discussed at some length in Canada's first Progress Report when reporting on progress in fulfilling Commitment One: An Enabling Environment, and Commitment Two: Access to Food. Further information on some of these programs is provided in this report in Section VII - Updates on Parts of Canada's First Progress Report.

Notwithstanding some improvements, social, economic and health indicators in Aboriginal communities are far below those of many other Canadians. This is of particular concern as many Aboriginal people in Canada, particularly those in remote communities, experience all or most aspects of food insecurity. This is attributable to low incomes, safety risks due to pollutants in the traditional food supply, quality problems associated with inappropriate shipping, handling and home preparation of commercial foods, and disruptions to access caused by interruptions in shipping or changes in animal migratory patterns. The cost of commercial food is high, as is the cost of supplies for fishing and hunting. The transition from a hunter-gatherer society to a cash-based society presents unique challenges to Aboriginal communities.

2.2 Canada's Priorities

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security presents the Canadian perspective on the complex issue of food security. It outlines Canada's priority concerns, as well as detailed objectives for each of the commitments of the *Rome Declaration on World Food Security* and the *WFS Plan of Action*. Since Canada already has a significant number of existing policies and programs in support of the *WFS Plan*

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of Action objectives, Canada's Action Plan serves to highlight only those areas in which Canadians believe more efforts could be made to contribute to food security, both domestically and abroad. The Canadian priorities as outlined in the Action Plan, with minimal up-dating, are repeated below. The order in which they appear does not necessarily reflect the order of importance.

PRIORITY 1: **THE RIGHT TO FOOD** reiterates Canada's belief that this right is an important element in food security and underscores the need to better define the meaning of this right and the actions required to implement it. Actions include civil society support to the *International Code of Conduct on the Human Right to Adequate Food*, and all-sector participation in national and international efforts to clarify the meaning of the right to food towards its full and progressive realization.

PRIORITY 2: **THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY** is an important element in the strategy for addressing food insecurity in both domestic and international actions, based on the notion that a key condition for food security is access to sufficient resources to purchase or grow food. Domestic actions centre on improving upon Canada's social system, especially with respect to those programs that target our most vulnerable populations. International actions are influenced by Canada's poverty reduction focus in its development assistance program; actions include maintaining or exceeding the 25 percent Official Development Assistance (ODA) target for investments in basic human needs such as food and nutrition, education and primary health care. The Plan also reaffirms Canada's commitment to engaging citizens in policy making and program design in the area of poverty reduction.

PRIORITY 3: **PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD** is seen as a critical component of food security. In developing countries, actions on micronutrient and vitamin supplementation of foods contribute to improved nutrition. Breastfeeding is also highlighted as crucial to infant health and nutrition worldwide. In Canada, commitment to this is furthered through actions to support working mothers, hospital programs, mother and child health care and other initiatives in support of the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes*. Beyond the promotion and protection of breastfeeding and other food security conditions, caring practices, and health and education measures are important for the nutrition security of mothers and children, particularly, but not only, in developing countries.

PRIORITY 4: **FOOD SAFETY** underlines the new challenges to global food supply posed by the rapid increase and deep market penetration of new and exotic foods from a variety of trading partners. They may constitute a new food safety hazard: by environmental contaminants, especially in traditional food sources in Canada's Far North, which are also a threat to safety; and emergencies or disasters, which can cause problems such as contamination from hazardous chemicals or disease-causing micro-organisms. In addition, lack of knowledge about preparation and storage of foods is identified as a threat, mainly at the household level. Actions to ensure safe supplies and safe handling include enhanced public education, adequate product labeling, robust biotechnology assessment, improved monitoring methods and stronger multi-sectoral partnerships. Research is carried out to provide the knowledge and technology needed to keep the food system safe, and to produce quality food products to meet current and future consumer needs.

PRIORITY 5: **TRADITIONAL FOOD ACQUISITION METHODS OF ABORIGINAL AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES** acknowledge the important role that hunting, fishing, gathering, bartering and trading play in the food security of many communities in Canada and abroad. By sharing their awareness of traditional foods and their knowledge of sustainable natural resource practices, indigenous people have an important contribution to make in achieving the World Food Summit's goal. Actions related to the reduction of environmental contaminants, sustainable management of resources (including fisheries) and appropriate supplementation with high-quality commercial foods, strengthen access to food for these communities.

PRIORITY 6: FOOD PRODUCTION emphasizes the critical role of research, rural development and investment in the productivity of the agriculture and agri-food sector. This priority makes a strong link between the sustainable management of productive resources and the production of sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food for all. It demonstrates the need to support local production, particularly in developing countries, where agrarian reform, participation of affected communities (including women producers) and fulfillment of basic human needs are essential to successful rural development programs. In Canada, actions aimed at enhancing agricultural production include: supporting sustainable resource management, continuing to invest in and build research capacity, and encouraging investment in rural areas. Canada produces high-quality, inexpensive food whose availability contributes to food security in other countries.

PRIORITY 7: EMPHASIS ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES explores some of the most pressing challenges to food production. Canada's actions in support of this priority are channeled through its support to a wide variety of commitments under current international agreements. Internationally, this covers specific challenges to developing countries in such areas as water resource management, community forestry, sustainable population growth, land management and conservation, and respect and preservation of indigenous knowledge. For Canada, additional actions complement these agreements to enhance stewardship of natural resources in the areas of northern contaminants, sustainable fisheries management, biotechnology, climate change, biodiversity and genetic resources.

PRIORITY 8: FAIR TRADE outlines the potential impact of liberalized trade regimes on incomes and overall welfare, and indicates the possibility that there may be adjustment costs in non-competitive sectors. Actions within this priority involve enhancing trade in the food and agri-food sectors, particularly for developing countries, while achieving a better understanding of the impacts of liberalized trade on people vulnerable to food insecurity.

PRIORITY 9: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PEACE AS A PRECURSOR TO FOOD SECURITY underlines the need for safe and secure access to means of production, especially arable land and harvestable waters. Actions within this priority strengthen emergency measures, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and disaster preparedness in Canada and abroad.

PRIORITY 10: A MONITORING SYSTEM FOR FOOD INSECURITY identifies the need for a comprehensive set of agreed-upon indicators to determine the nature, extent and evolution of food insecurity, both to develop appropriate responses and to monitor their effectiveness. This plan provides for both government and civil society to work toward developing indicators for national and international systems and using them for monitoring purposes.

III DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

In terms of domestic implementation, Canada's Action Plan included commitments relating to sustainable agriculture and rural development; agricultural trade, overall trade and food security policies; and the promotion of investment in sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems.

In June 2001, Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture agreed in principle to an action plan for an agricultural policy framework composed of five elements: food safety and food quality, environment, science and innovation, renewal, and business risk management. The individual elements of the agricultural policy framework are not new. In fact, industry and governments have been strong advocates for action on these elements in the past. What is new is the linking of these elements in a comprehensive approach so that the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector has a solid platform from which to maximize opportunities in the global marketplace, resulting in increased profitability through growth, diversification and value-added activities.

This policy framework is broader than just the agriculture and agri-food industry, it is also about benefits to Canadians. These benefits include greater food safety and quality assurance systems from the farm through to the grocery store, accelerated environmental stewardship initiatives on farms, and the positioning of the second largest sector of the Canadian economy for even greater growth.

Commitment Three: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high- and low-potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.

Canada has a record of being fully supportive of global efforts directed towards sustainable agriculture and rural development as evidenced by active involvement in events such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (ICPGR) in 1996. More recent and other involvement is outlined in responses to the action statements which follow.

Action - Participate in the FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and in this context implement the *Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Canada is an active participant in the FAO Global System for Plant Genetic Resources and was fully involved and instrumental in the intergovernmental negotiations carried out under the auspices of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which resulted in the adoption of the final text of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* at the FAO Conference in November 2001.

Domestically, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) developed a state-of-the-art facility for Plant Gene Resources of Canada to provide controlled storage for the conservation of seed-crop genetic resources. The infrastructure and operations of the Canadian Clonal Genebank were enhanced in 1996-

1997. New germplasm was acquired to fill gaps in these collections and to include native plants occuring across Canada. The Germplasm Resource Information Network – Canada (GRIN-CA) was created in 1997-2001 to manage the information associated with each accession conserved in the network, and became available on the Internet in April 2001. All of North America is now on a common database management system facilitating easy access and environmental awareness.

AAFC published a book and set up a Web site entitled *Canadian Medicinal Crops*, which provide information on the sustainable use of Canada's principal native medicinal plants. A publication series examining the sustainable development of Canada's principal native food crops was initiated, with articles on wild leeks, groundnuts and fiddleheads.

Action - Implement the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy*, which includes strategic directions aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in agricultural areas and which other partners are using as a guide for action.

Canada remains firmly committed to the *International Convention on Biological Diversity* (Biodiversity Convention, CBD) which came into force in December 1994. Canada continues to host the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention, and is renewing its financial commitment to the Secretariat.

In response to the CBD, Canada developed the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy* and remains fully committed to its implementation. Some noteworthy examples of domestic initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's biological diversity and natural resources follow.

A partnership was established with the Canadian Museum of Nature, Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada to develop a Canadian National Biodiversity Information Initiative to increase our national ability to electronically access authorative biodiversity information located in major biological resource collections in Canada. AAFC worked with US and Mexican partners to develop an improved version of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, an international database/taxonomic dictionary, and developed its first biology-based search engine.

AAFC developed an *Action Plan for Biodiversity*, which contributes to the implementation of the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy* and provides a framework for work with the department's partners on issues related to biological diversity from an agricultural perspective. An inventory of Canadian agricultural producer activities relative to biodiversity initiatives shows that producers are active participants in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity through, for example, enhancement of on-farm vegetation and riparian zones. The action plan was updated and put into the mainstream through development of a chapter on biodiversity, entitled "Agriculture in Harmony with Nature," in AAFC's *Sustainable Development Strategy* for 2001-2004.

A $10-million National Soil and Water Conservation Program was initiated to provide funding in each province to help address priority environmental sustainability issues such as environmental farm planning and sustainable agriculture practices. Contribution agreements were established with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Wildlife Habitat Canada for "Country Side Canada," an initiative to encourage farmers to protect wildlife habitat; and with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada to implement a Climate Change Skills and Knowledge Transfer Program called "Taking Charge".

In terms of wildlife habitat preservation, AAFC developed an indicator for wildlife habitat change on agricultural lands through the Agri-Environmental Indicators Project (AEIP). The department maintains a network of Community Pastures in Western Canada to ensure the long-term conservation of marginal lands and critical wildlife areas. There is cooperation on several land management projects with Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service, and Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation to enhance wildlife habitat while maintaining lifestock production. Policies and guidelines have been developed for the collection of native plant material on managed lands to ensure the sustainability of these species.

AAFC works with the provinces and rural clients to reduce land degradation in the prairies by distributing six million shelterbelt seedlings annually, conducting demonstrations and field days, and producing fact sheets on sustainable land use and management practices, and on water quality and quantity. The Department's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) also works in concert with CIDA to link its actions to combat land degradation, drought and desertification in the Canadian Prairies to the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). CIDA and AAFC/PRFA jointly published Canada's first official report as an affected country party to the UNCCD entitled, "Desertification: A Perspective on Canada" in 2001.

Action - Take all appropriate actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is a major environmental problem that has an impact on the quality of life of billions of people around the world. Canada is particularly vulnerable and is committed to the Kyoto Protocol, and to achieving Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission target of 6-percent reduction below 1990 levels within the 2008-2012 time frame. In deciding on how Canada should meet its climate change commitments, the Prime Minister has established two prerequisites—a workable plan and full consultations with provinces and territories, with stakeholders, and with Canadians. In order to develop the plan, the government of Canada has issued a *Discussion Paper on Canada's Contribution to Addressing Climate Change.* The Paper sets out what we know about climate change, what we have done so far, and what remains to be done. It outlines four options for discussion in addressing Canada's climate change commitments.

The Government of Canada has a three-part plan for moving Canada to our Kyoto target. The first part includes the actions Canada has already taken to reduce emissions at home and put the international rules in place. The second designates the investments that Canadian companies can make to help developing countries reduce emissions by using clean energy and clean technologies. The third involves a variety of new policies and measures including a domestic emission trading system, regulations and incentives to implement further cost effective emission reductions domestically.

Action Plan 2000 sets the course for action in all sectors of the Canadian economy and lays the groundwork for long-term behavioural, technological and economic change. Initiatives within the plan will reduce emissions by a significant number of megatonnes. Canada is seeking substantial credits from the international rules successfully negotiated for carbon sinks in recognition of the good forestry and agricultural management practices already in place. Two areas in which we are making particularly large investments are renewable energy, where we are providing incentives for the production of wind power, and putting in place tax measures[6] for other renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives; and the doubling of the original $125 million investment in the Green Municipal Funds.

As for agriculture, AAFC led two major multi-stakeholder initiatives that helped consolidate the current science base for climate change relative to agriculture and to identify priority actions aimed at reducing GHG emissions in the sector. These initiatives formed the basis for federal and provincial agriculture departments, along with farm organizations, to work together on further actions to address climate change issues facing the sector. For example, the Climate Change Skills and Knowledge Transfer Program helps to raise producers' awareness of the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector and to assist farmers to identify best management practices to reduce GHG emissions. Most of the stewardship programming and initiatives are expected to result in co-benefits for reduction of agricultural GHG emissions.

Action - Ensure stable sustainable fisheries, in cooperation with fish harvesters' organizations, by bringing fishing fleets into balance with existing resources through fisheries management measures (such as individual quotas), buy-backs, stock enhancement measures, etc.

The marine environment holds social and cultural significance, as well as considerable economic value, for the people of Canada. For most coastal residents, oceans provide an important and inexpensive source of food. There are intimate links among the sustainable use of coastal resources, the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment, and the health and well-being of coastal populations.

The conservation and sustainable utilization of fishery resources remains a primary focus of oceans-related activity for Canada. Stock conservation challenges, allocation conflicts between user groups, international transboundary disputes, excessive harvesting capacity and fiscal restraint have caused the federal government to pursue a strategy to advance industry restructuring, and to change fisheries policies and management domestically and internationally. The objective of these changes is to have an economically and environmentally sustainable fishing sector. Provincial and territorial governments are working co-operatively to improve fisheries management. Canada is guided in this undertaking by the following principles:

- conservation comes first;
- Aboriginal rights must be respected;
- industry capacity must be aligned with the carrying capacity of the marine environment for the resource; and
- government and industry must move toward operating in partnership.

Major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment result largely from coastal and inland pollution generated by human activities with some 80 percent originating from municipal, industrial and agricultural wastes and runoff. The long-range transport of pollutants through atmospheric deposition or by ocean currents may deposit toxins thousands of miles from the source. These contaminants affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. The marine environment may also be threatened by local physical alterations of the coastal zone, including the destruction of habitat vitally important to ecosystem health.

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[6] Canada's scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax incentive program - see Commitment Six

Canada's national initiatives to conserve and protect the coastal and marine environments are: *Oceans Management Strategy*, *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* (NPA), *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) and ecosystems initiatives and international ocean initiatives (*Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* (GPA). Through coordinated actions at local, regional, national and global levels, these initiatives protect human health; reduce the degradation of the marine environment; remediate damaged areas; promote the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources; and maintain the productive capacity and biodiversity of coastal and marine environments.

The aquaculture industry has experienced double-digit growth over the past decade as a result of increasing global demand for seafood combined with declines in production from traditional capture fisheries. Rapid change has presented new opportunities and challenges for the Canadian aquaculture sector, and Canada has responded to this changing international context by developing a six-point *Aquaculture Action Plan* to improve public confidence in the sustainability of aquaculture and to increase industry competitiveness in global markets. Through this Action Plan, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) proposes to:

- strengthen its scientific information base on aquaculture and champion innovation initiatives for the responsible development of the aquaculture sector;
- complete the development of the *Aquaculture Policy Framework*;
- create an enabling regulatory environment for aquaculture development;
- develop options related to national aquatic animal health and other strategic industry development programs;
- work with provincial and territorial governments to develop a Canadian Action Plan to improve the aquaculture site application process and coordinate national research and development;
- work with Environment Canada to conduct sanitary and bacteriological water quality surveys of coastal shellfish aquaculture areas;
- communicate with Canadians to contribute to informed dialogue about sustainable aquaculture development; and
- develop supporting policies such as the *National Policy on Introductions and Transfers*.

Action - Implement the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program (CFAR) which will reduce groundfish harvesting capacity, thereby enhancing resource sustainability and will assist participants in adjusting into other economic sectors.

In 2000–2001, DFO devoted $112.8 million to the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program (CFAR) for both Pacific and Atlantic initiatives. The majority of these resources went to contribution programs related to fisheries adjustment and restructuring[10].

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[10] *Fisheries Development Act Annual Report 2000–2001*₇ http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communic/reports/fda/fda2000_e.htm
*Fisheries and Oceans Canada—Departmental Performance Report for the period ending March 31, 2001*₅
http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/publication_e.htm.

In the Atlantic regions, DFO expenditures in 2000–2001 were used to retire groundfish licences and the unused portion has been reprofiled to the 2001–02 fiscal year to address the completion of the Atlantic Groundfish Licence Retirement Program. The program has been completed in the Gulf and Laurentian regions, and is continuing in the Maritimes and Newfoundland regions.

In the Pacific Region, the program was designed to revitalize Canada's Pacific fisheries, including a reduction of commercial salmon harvesting capacity. Resources were used for restructuring the fishery, including selective fishing initiatives and fisheries development; "Community Economic Development and Adjustment;" and "Rebuilding Resources."

The Pacific Salmon Licence Retirement Program has been completed, reducing the size of the Pacific salmon fleet by 43 percent since the program began in the fall of 1998. Since 1996, the eligible commercial salmon fleet has been reduced by 54 percent. The program also balanced the reduction of licences across all gear types, as stakeholders recommended: 44 percent of all seine licences, 40 percent of gillnet licences and 46 percent of troll licences have been retired.

Action - Implement the new *Strategies for Environmentally Sustainable Development* as required by the revisions to the *Auditor General Act.*

In 1997, amendments to the *Auditor General Act* required federal government departments and selected agencies to prepare sustainable development strategies and to update them every three years. This promotes continuous improvement over the long term. The amendments also provided for the creation of a Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, who reports annually to Parliament on implementation of the strategies, as well as on other issues.

A focus for departments has been improving how they work together to address sustainable development issues that cut across departmental mandates. A number of interdepartmental committees support these collaboration and coordination efforts. One is the Sustainable Development Coordinating Committee, composed of 14 deputy ministers, which provides overall management of sustainable development endeavours and ensures a coherent approach to the government's sustainable development agenda. In addition, the Interdepartmental Network of Sustainable Development Strategies examines emerging issues and works together on initiatives.

Together, departments have identified eight priority areas where there are opportunities to make progress through a government-wide approach. These are:

- sustainable development in government operations;
- international aspects of sustainable development;
- federal sustainable development strategy for the North;
- sustainable development and healthy Canadians;
- social and cultural aspects of sustainable development;
- productivity through eco-efficiency;
- sustainable development knowledge and information/indicators and reporting; and
- sustainability in communities.

Many of the updated sustainable development strategies have incorporated commitments in these areas.

Departments also benefited from the insights that emerged from the Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development in April 2000. The forum brought together 60 senior societal leaders and government officials to discuss Canada's sustainable development challenges and opportunities. The event reflected the Government's commitment to developing strategies openly and transparently, and to working with Canadians to make progress. In addition, when renewing their sustainable development strategies, departments consulted with a broad range of Canadians through various means.

The following examples from agriculture and fisheries exemplify the sort of initiatives undertaken.

AAFC released and implemented *Agriculture in Harmony with Nature: Strategy for Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-Food Development in Canada* (SDS-1) during 1997–2000. The strategy and action plan was built on four pillars:

- increasing understanding;
- promoting environmental and resource stewardship;
- developing innovations and solutions; and
- seizing market opportunities.

This was followed by SDS-2 for the years 2001–2004, which built four pillars into departmental policies, programs and operations:

- environmental sustainability of natural resources;
- a prosperous and viable sector maintained in a sustainable manner;
- contribution to sustainable communities; and
- sustainable development.

DFO has developed its *Sustainable Development Strategy* for 2001-2003[6] *(www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sds-sdd/index_e.htm)*, and is working to implement the strategy's goals and objectives. In collaboration with other federal departments, the department continues to build on past sustainable development initiatives that are crucial to sustaining fisheries resources, such as the establishment of fisheries conservation, habitat protection and marine environmental protection programs. The following are several examples of accomplishments in advancing sustainable development in fisheries since 1997.

- Implementation of the *Oceans Act* in collaboration with other federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal organizations, coastal communities and other stakeholders and interested Canadians. Programs include:
  - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
  - Integrated Management (IM);
  - Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ); and
  - Ecosystems Initiatives.

  These programs, along with the National Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPA), are crucial to the productivity and protection of Canada's marine food sources.
- Development of new policy frameworks such as *A New Direction for Canada's Pacific Salmon Fisheries*, the *Wild Salmon Policy Discussion Paper* and the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Review.
- Increased stakeholder responsibility and shared stewardship through support for industry implementation of the *Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations*.

- International cooperation and negotiation of international fishing regimes consistent with Canada's domestic conservation objectives, such as the *Pacific Salmon Treaty* long-term agreement and participation in multilateral negotiations to bring into effect the *UN Agreement on Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* (UNFA).

Action - Implement effective, sound chemical management measures using the precautionary approach combined with pollution prevention, legislative/administrative controls supported by research and development.

Canada has implemented a number of initiatives which address this issue. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), representing all federal, provincial and territorial governments, has identified the management and reduction of toxic substances in the environment as a national priority through the *CCME Policy for the Management of Toxic Substances*. The CCME Policy supports the coordination of government actions on the management of toxic substances, ensuring that the approach is complementary to the Toxic Substances Management Policy (TSMP), and other activities nationwide.

Under the TSMP, toxic substances that are determined to be persistent, bioaccumulative and resulting primarily from human activity are targeted for virtual elimination from the environment. The 12 substances subject to the draft *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)* are being managed under the TSMP. Federal legislation used to implement the TSMP objectives include the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Pest Control Products Act*, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Hazardous Products Act*.

Within the Canada-Wide Standards process, the CCME addresses environmental protection and health risk reduction issues that require common environmental standards across the country. In June of 2000, the ministers approved, in principle, standards for two priority sectors that emit dioxins and furans; incineration and coastal boilers burning salt-laden wood. The Government/Industry Working Group on Methyl Bromide (a pesticide used in the food industry) develops, tests and promotes alternatives to meet Canadian phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances.

In response to scientific studies that revealed contaminants in the Arctic ecosystem, the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) was established in 1991. The NCP aims to reduce, and, where possible, eliminate contaminants in country foods harvested in the North. It also provides information that helps individuals and communities make decisions about their food use. The program targets three main contaminant groups: persistent organic pollutants (POPs); heavy metals; and radionuclides.

Under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA 1999), the approach to the control of new substances is proactive, preventive and precautionary, employing a pre-import or pre-manufacture notification and assessment process under the New Substances Notification Regulations (NSNR). When this process identifies a new substance that may pose a risk to health or the environment, the Act empowers Environment Canada to intervene prior to or during the earliest stages of its introduction into Canada. Assessment of potential toxicity, as well as implementation of appropriate or required control measures is required. This ability to act early makes the new substances program a unique and essential component of the federal management of toxic substances.

Action - Implement the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / FAO Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade through adoption or amendment of national legislative measures.

Regulations for the export of substances under the Rotterdam Convention and associated administrative measures are under development and are expected to be in place in 2002. These will allow Canada to ratify the *Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*, which will enter into force 90 days after being ratified by 50 Parties.

Action - Implement the *National Forest Strategy* (1998-2003), Canada's blueprint for sustainable forest stewardship into the new millennium, and report on the implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

The National Forest Strategy[12] has been implemented, as has a framework of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. The strategy reflects the forest values that Canadians want to sustain and enhance. Based on this Canadian vision of sustainable forestry, Canada is making collective progress toward the goal of keeping the nation's forests sound, productive and beneficial. This is being achieved through the commitment, participation, collaboration and adaptiveness of forest stakeholders, and has earned Canada international recognition as a practical model of sustainable forest management.

Each Canadian province and territory has legislation, regulations, standards and programs through which it allocates harvesting rights and management responsibilities for its forests. In addition, many provinces and territories have legislation that requires public participation in forest management planning and allocation processes. The broad spectrum of forest users—the public, forest industries, Aboriginal groups, and environmental organizations—are consulted so that recreational, cultural, wildlife and economic values will be incorporated into forest management planning and decision making.

Action - Develop a *Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations* in response to the FAO *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

The *Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations* was developed under the principles called for by the FAO Code of Conduct. Selective fishing, catch monitoring, industry-government collaboration, research, and public and stakeholder education are among the issues addressed in its guidelines. The Code was successfully implemented through a grassroots initiative by fishers for fishers, and represents a major change in Canada's approach to achieving sustainable, conservation-based commercial fisheries across the country.

Fisheries management plans are developed in collaboration with fisheries managers and the fishing industry. The Code has been ratified or endorsed by fisheries fleets and organizations that account for over 80 percent of Canada's commercial fish harvest, and is managed by the fishing industry through the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board. The secretariat of the board, which is staffed and funded by DFO, supports industry's participation.

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[12] Canadian Forest Service Web site www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs-scf

The broad-based involvement of commercial fishing organizations across the country has contributed significantly to attitudinal and behavioral changes, which are essential in securing the future of Canada's fisheries. Canadian fishers are assuming responsibility for the sustainability of this important resource.

Action - Continue developing a Freshwater Strategy for human and environmental health.

Governments, industry, communities and individual Canadians are making significant progress toward achieving/maintaining a clean, safe and secure water supply. A key component to this progress is strengthened collaboration between federal and provincial and territorial governments to establish priorities and action plans to protect Canada's water resources.

In September 2001, the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment (CCME) affirmed that they are taking comprehensive action to protect the quality of Canada's fresh water "from the source to the tap." They emphasized the importance of strong standards for drinking water. In addition, the CCME has launched a series of collaborative actions that include:

- reviewing existing guidelines and accelerating the development of additional water quality guidelines;
- establishing research priorities such as disturbances to groundwater sources, land-use impact on watersheds, and recycling and reuse of water; and
- giving Canadians information on the quality of water.

Federal departments are also working together in order to integrate the approach to fresh water priorities in order to protect the health of Canadians and the environment. AAFC published *Health of Our Water – Toward Sustainable Agriculture in Canada* summarizing current knowledge of the state of water resources in the agricultural areas of Canada. Those areas at greatest environmental risk are identified along with technologies to treat poor quality water in rural areas. Programs are in place to increase access to safe, reliable water supplies for rural residents and agricultural enterprises.

The Government of Canada will build on these collaborative efforts in order to develop comprehensive strategies and action plans to protect this most precious resource.

Action - Research, develop, introduce and facilitate adoption of sustainable new crop protection and production systems, including the enhanced application of integrated pest management and new stress-resistant and pest-resistant crop varieties.

Research is continuing in Canada to develop production methods that are more sustainable, and crop varieties that are more cost effective and productive.

AAFC established the National Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) during 1997–1999. Industry-led provincial/regional adaptation councils implemented the program nationally to help address priority agriculture and agri-food sector environmental sustainability issues, including ground and surface water quality, water quantity, environmental management systems, soil management, endangered species habitat, on-farm storage of pesticide and other farm inputs. This program has been redesigned and extended under new environmental stewardship and renewed adaptation programs.

In addition, AAFC has initiated a national program on Sustainable Production Systems. Crop cultivar development and other genetic enhancement focuses on the development of new crop cultivars with increased yields, resistance to disease, improved quality, and higher levels of tolerance to environmental stress. Research in crop production systems will result in new technology to reduce the costs of production and to improve the efficiency of crop production.

Action - Research, develop and facilitate adoption of sustainable new animal protection and production systems, including technologies and practices for improved management of production by-products.

The current trend towards larger production units in the interest of efficiencies of production has highlighted the need for research into new approaches to production from not only the standpoint of efficiency of production but also from that of pollution control and animal welfare.

Through AAFC's new national program on Sustainable Production Systems, new technology is being developed for livestock production systems. This technology will reduce production costs and improve product quality and animal health.

AAFC established the Hog Environmental Management Strategy (HEMS) during 1998–1999 which was implemented by a national industry-led committee to reduce environmental constraints to hog production through the joint efforts of government, industry and other groups. The strategy developed and implemented solutions for environmental issues associated with waste management and odours, soil and water quality, and air pollution.

In addition, AAFC is conducting a demonstration of planned grazing practices and enhancement techniques in five riparian habitats in Saskatchewan. These highly productive areas often produce two to three times the forage of adjacent upland areas.

Action - Increase use of suitably assessed marine biotechnology, such as fish vaccines and diagnostic tests, to improve and safeguard fish and seaweed farming and to protect ecosystems.

At this time, there are no biotechnology-derived fish vaccines or diagnostic tests which have been approved for use in Canada. However, there has been a gradual rise in the use of conventional or non-bio-technology-derived vaccines in aquaculture in the last several years.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulates veterinary biologics in Canada under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act* and Regulations. This activity is an important part of Canada's National Animal Health Program, which strives to protect the health of food-producing animals (including fish), domestic pets, and the Canadian public by preventing the introduction and spread of certain animal diseases.

Regulated products include vaccines, immunoglobulin products, and diagnostic kits for the prevention, treatment or diagnosis of infectious diseases in animals, including domestic livestock, poultry, pets, wildlife and fish. The regulatory functions are supported by the Biologics Evaluation Laboratory, which provides scientific advice, conducts random confirmatory laboratory tests to monitor manufacturers' quality processes and procedures, and conducts supplemental tests when required for investigation of suspected adverse reactions and consumer complaints.

Manufacturers of vaccines and diagnostic tests for fish diseases are required to conform with the CFIA's regulatory standards, which are established in consultation with fish health officials from the DFO. To meet the licensing requirements, these products must be shown to be pure, potent, safe and effective when used in the target species according to the manufacturer's label recommendations. In addition, the licensing submission must also contain supporting data demonstrating that the product can be manufactured and used without adversely affecting animal health, human health, food safety or the environment. A risk-based approach is used to evaluate the safety of the product in target species, as well as in non-target species, humans and the environment.

Action - Pursue pollution prevention by encouraging environmental and economic efficiencies through waste reduction and measures to avoid the creation of pollutants as early in an activity as possible.

Pollution prevention is the cornerstone of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999), which provides new powers and tools to protect the environment and human health and to contribute to sustainable development. Pollution prevention planning is a systematic, comprehensive method of identifying options to minimize or avoid the creation of pollutants or waste. The goal of planning is to have a company or facility select the measures that are most appropriate for its specific circumstances to reduce the use, generation and release of specific substances of concern. The Act gives the authority to require the preparation and implementation of pollution prevention plans for substances listed under the Act.

Environment Canada has established the Canadian Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (CPPIC) which is a database providing Canadians with the information they need to practice pollution prevention. It contains over 1,200 references ranging from fact sheets to case studies.

Some specific examples of actions taken related to food production follow.

With respect to agriculture, waste management is included with the new technology being developed for livestock production systems under AAFC's new national program on Sustainable Production Systems. The Farm Environmental Management Survey (FEMS) collected and analyzed information on the adoption of environmental technologies (such as manure storage and pesticide application) on Canadian farms for the 1995 season.

The Agri-Environmental Indicators Project (AEIP) developed and reported for 1981–1996 on 14 indicators in six categories. The first phase of the AIEP was completed in 2000 with the publishing of the report, *Environmental Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture: Report of the Agri-Environmental Indicator Project* (*www.agr.ca/policy/environment*), which introduces a new set of tools to help guide and assess the environmental performance of our primary agriculture sector.

From a fisheries perspective, protecting Canada's marine environment from the harmful affects of pollution requires a multilateral approach capable of preventing pollution and responding effectively to incidents involving pollution. Because of the particular qualities of Canada's coastal regions, it is often necessary to coordinate pollution prevention activities at a regional and local level to address specific problems and priorities. Such activities often require international cooperation on issues that affect border regions. Canada participates in international initiatives related to the protection of the marine environment such as:

- the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;*
- the *International Convention on Pollution Preparedness;*
- the *London Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter* (including the 1996 Protocol);
- the *Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA);*
- the 1948 *Canada-US Bilateral Agreement on Shellfish Sanitation;*

Under these and other conventions and programs, Canada carries out activities such as revising its joint marine contingency plan with the United States for responding to spills in shared boundary waters and is active in revisions to the London Convention. Work in the Arctic is focussing initially on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals.

Domestically, under programs such as the *National Program of Action* in 2000, the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP), and the *Fisheries Act*, Canada is working with provincial and territorial governments to develop and implement actions to protect the marine environment. The CSSP ensures that all shellfish-growing areas meet approved water quality criteria and that all shellfish sold commercially are harvested and handled in an approved manner.

Commitment Four: Trade and Food Security

We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.

Action - Engage in factual and balanced discussions with civil society to review the relationship between trade, trade agreements and food security.

The Government of Canada has engaged in discussions with civil society to review the relationship between trade, trade agreements and food security in a number of contexts. This includes updates at regular meetings of the Joint Consultative Group on Food Security, as well as participation in meetings of the NGO Food Security Policy Group. Notable events include the *Working Together Conference*, hosted by Ryerson University in June 2001, and discussions that have also taken place in 2001 in meetings of the Joint Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

Action - Harmonize domestic with international food inspection and safety standards in a manner that maintains public health protection and facilitates trade.

Canada's active participation in *Codex Alimentarius* is managed through an Interdepartmental Committee for Codex (IDC/Codex) which consists of senior officials from Health Canada (HC), the

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), DFAIT, AAFC and IC. In 1999 the IDC/Codex endorsed a strategic plan for Canada's involvement in Codex that identifies objectives of Canada's participation in the Food Standards Programme of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission and outlines strategies for the Government of Canada to achieve those objectives.

One of the objectives is the establishment of "a procedure to review Codex codes, standards, guidelines and recommendations as the basis for national standards in order to ensure public health protection while enhancing international regulatory harmonization for the purpose of facilitating trade". To accomplish this, a project was recently launched to promote the alignment of Canadian requirements to Codex standards wherever appropriate. This project aims to:

- review the existing Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations and compare them with existing Canadian requirements;
- establish a mechanism to ensure that pending or new regulatory requirements consider Codex standards that have been adopted; and
- establish a mechanism to review the standards adopted by subsequent sessions of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

Action - Identify methodologies for valuation of agricultural resources in a national accounting framework, and examine methods of accounting for the full range of environmental benefits and costs of agricultural production.

Federal and provincial governments, academia and non-government organizations continue to identify and test methods for the valuation of agricultural resources and to account for environmental benefits and costs of agricultural production.

The Government of Canada allocated $9 million to support activities aimed at developing environmental indicators that would complement economic indicators and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in February 2000 published the report, *Environmental Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture: Report of the Agri-Environmental Indicator Project* (*www.agr.ca/policy/environment*). Agri-environmental indicators (AEIs) are measures of key environmental conditions, risks, and changes resulting from agriculture. The indicators are national in scope but sensitive to regional variations in the agricultural landscape and to the farming practices implemented. Their overall purpose is to better inform the policy discourse surrounding agri-environmental issues in Canada.

Commitment Six: Promoting Investment

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high- and low-potential areas.

Action - Through the application of a "rural lens," adapt policies, programs and services to reflect the social and economic realities of rural Canada, and ensure that rural communities in all regions of Canada share in the economic benefits of the global knowledge-based economy.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that rural and remote Canada continues to be a great place to live, prosper and raise a family. The federal government remains a dedicated and helpful partner for rural and remote communities to achieve their potential.

The Rural Lens is a tool that government uses to ensure that before approving and implementing new policies, programs and services, federal departments and agencies assess their effects on rural Canadians. The Rural Lens helps the federal government focus on issues related to specific geographical regions of Canada. This has enabled the government to make informed policy and program choices, and provide needed investments that reflect the social and cultural aspects of rural and remote Canada.

Successful application of the Rural Lens has resulted in a dedicated rural portion of infrastructure investments (more than $427 million), and improved access to federal tools and services through numerous Service Canada sites. The establishment of the Office of Rural Health in Health Canada and an additional $90 million in the Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) are also a result of the application of the Rural Lens. (*Canadian Rural Partnership Annual Report to Parliament 2000 – 2001*2. *www.rural.gc.ca/annualreport/2001/index.phtml*)

Action - Enhance accessibility to federal programs and services in rural areas.

Government initiatives are being taken at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to explore new ways to give all Canadians access to government programs, such as modern, efficient health and education services regardless of where they live. The government is fulfilling its commitment to involve rural and remote Canadians by providing culturally sensitive beneficial and supportive services and programs for all regions of Canada.

Access to government programs and services is being enhanced by improving traditional technology routes, call centres and in-person service. Through its network of 7,100 retail outlets, rural post offices provided access to a wide variety of services, while the Canada Business Service Centres program, through its network of 382 regional partners, has expanded its in-person access to many communities.

The Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative has funded more than 75 national and regional rural health projects. In addition, Health Canada's two-year, $80-million Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program announced in 2000 is supporting collaboration, innovation and renewal in health care delivery. About $49 million is directly supporting 17 programs to improve access to medical care in rural and remote areas.

Food security is a key issue in the proposed framework for the strategic positioning of First Nations and Nutritional Health. Funding for expansion of the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (1999) for First Nations and Inuit has been adjusted to account for the increased costs in delivering this program to isolated communities. Increased funding overall has provided greater resources to communities to provide pregnant and breastfeeding women with nutritious food.

The Canada Student Loans Program continues to assist rural Canadians with access to education. Access to the Student Loans Program has been improved by making it available through 500 Canada Post outlets, many in rural areas. The SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools supports Canadian primary and secondary schools that successfully use information and communications technology. Of the 85 schools in the program, 51 are in rural areas. The First Nations SchoolNet program has provided computers and Internet access to 420 First Nations schools and 113 communities without schools.

Funding has been provided through a Government of Canada program for students at five Canadian universities to explore Canadian and European practices and policy options for sustainable agriculture. Students studying agriculture, law and public policy can follow, at partner universities in Canada, a curriculum exploring the interdisciplinary aspects of sustainable agricultural practices. The curriculum is delivered via distance learning and faculty and student exchanges. Academic staff provide instruction through the development of teaching modules.

The Government of Canada is developing its rural Web site at *http://www.rural.gc.ca* into a Rural and Remote Services portal, which is a part of the main Government of Canada Web site *http://www.canada.gc.ca*. This will result in a single-window access to services available to rural and remote communities. Through this site, citizens in rural and remote Canada will continue to be able to express their views on federal programs and policies, and will be kept informed of government activities.

Statistics Canada's Rural Information Service helps communities access information and services to find local solutions to local challenges. Through the Canadian Heritage Information Network, rural and remote Canadians have World Wide Web access to Canadian heritage information. The Heritage Forum assists heritage professionals with world-wide access to resources. In 2000 it provided 2.8 million Internet clients with 650 information-based resources.

Action - Identify and promote opportunities for domestic and international direct investment and support related alliances in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector.

Increased investment is fundamental to the health of the agri-food sector, particularly in the North American market. Pursuing growth through the new cross-border product mandates, investments and technologies requires an integrated approach to trade, investment, trade policy and international development as well as partnership with the provinces. Investment and trade decisions are based on fundamental competitive advantages, and Canada's new agricultural policy framework will position Canada to differentiate itself in terms of food safety, quality and environmentally responsible production, and brand itself as best in the world. Federal and provincial investment partners implement Canada's Federal-Provincial Investment Strategy for Agri-food by working together to promote Canada as the preferred location from which to serve the NAFTA market, address regulatory and policy issues which impede investment and secure new investments and alliances by fostering commercialization of new products and processes and brokering expansion of product mandates.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) (*www.fcc-sca.ca*) is a federal Crown corporation providing specialized, personalized financial services to farming operations—including family farms and small to medium-sized agribusinesses. It also plays a public policy role. Through its service centres, corporate office and 100 field and district offices, Farm Credit Canada delivers federal programs and services for the agriculture sector, offering a wide range of flexible financing products and services supporting farmer-controlled diversification initiatives and value-added operations beyond the farm gate. Most of FCC's clientele are primary producers heading small and medium-sized operations. FCC also delivers programs and services jointly with other government agencies and financial institutions and served 44,700 customers, issuing $1.8 billion in 13,289 loans, in fiscal year 2000-2001[13].

The Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI) is enhancing the viability of agricultural rural communities, particularly those undergoing change as a result of adjustment in the agricultural sector. CARCI funding, provided by the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund, will amount to $9.3 million over three years. The Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects Initiative provides funds for creative approaches to development in rural and remote communities. During the 2000–2001 fiscal year it supported 100 projects, with a total funding of $2.96 million.

The *Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act (FIMCLA)* is a federal government program designed to increase the availability of loans for the purpose of the improvement and development of farms and the processing, distribution or marketing of farm products by cooperative associations. Under the Act, AAFC provides loan guarantees to designated lending institutions on loans which can be granted for up to 80 percent of the purchase price or appraised value of property. More than $1.7 billion in loan guarantees were provided during the last five years.

The new *Financial Consumer Agency of Canada Act* strengthens the credit union movement, and through lower minimum capital requirements, encourages new entrants into Canada's financial services sector. This will make it easier to create smaller banks with a regional or community focus. Rural and remote Canadians will also benefit from other consumer protection measures.

The *Canada Small Business Financing Act* facilitates asset-based debt financing for up to $250,000 for the start-up or expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises with annual revenues of up to $5 million. A network of 1500 private-sector lenders offers access to the program in all provinces and territories. The Government of Canada covers 85 percent of the net losses incurred by lenders on defaulted loans.

Canada has established regional programs to assist development, such as the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), which has a Business Development Program (BDP) focusing on small to medium-sized enterprises. This program offers access to capital in the form of interest-free, unsecured, repayable contributions and helps set up, expand or modernize businesses. Non-profit organizations providing support to the business community may also qualify.

Under direction from the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) provides business services, information and financial support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in all regions of Canada, including rural areas. It concentrates its support on small businesses and focuses on Aboriginal youth entrepreneurship, innovation, trade and market expansion,

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[13] The Government of Canada's fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

Aboriginal tourism, and strengthening Aboriginal financial organizations. The program aims to increase the number of viable Aboriginal businesses, leading to increased employment, income and productivity, and to improved leveraging of funding from non-government sources for projects proposed by ABC clients. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, ABC invested $30 million in 1079 business projects under its strategic priorities and assisted 660 clients.

Action - Encourage venture capital funds for start up and expansion of agriculture and agri-food related businesses.

Canada has a number of initiatives and programs in this area. Both the federal and provincial governments have taken action to encourage investment in small and medium sized business enterprises (SMEs).

With respect to federal Crown Financial Institutions, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Farm Credit Canada (FCC) both have the authority to provide debt and equity capital to farms and other agribusinesses. In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the BDC authorized 71 deals totalling $114 million in all sectors. The BDC's total portfolio at cost grew to $206 million from $145 million at the end of March 2000. The recent passage of the *Farm Credit Canada Act* allows FCC to provide both equity capital and debt capital to farms and other small and medium-sized agribusinesses.

Labour-sponsored venture capital corporations (LSVCCs) are funds sponsored by a labour organization in which individuals pool their money to invest in small to medium-sized businesses. According to the Canadian Venture Capital Association, LSVCCs invested $652 million in 2001 across all sectors.

The Canada Community Investment Plan (CCIP) is a five-year partnership program that helps 22 non-metropolitan communities improve local entrepreneurs' access to risk capital. This is a grassroots program in which the investment facilitation strategy developed by each community represents that community's unique needs. As of June 2001, these strategies have helped 297 small and medium-sized enterprises obtain about $170 million in risk capital from private investors and non-federal sources. As a result of this injection of capital, these firms expect to create more than 2500 new jobs. The ratio of private dollars invested per dollar provided by the government/community partnership is now over 14 to 1. Examples of the best practices and lessons learned in CCIP's demonstration projects are provided on-line to help others.

Tax-related provisions and initiatives include tax credits for labour-sponsored venture capital corporations (LSVCC), the reduction in the capital gains inclusion rate of 50 percent, the $500,000 lifetime capital gains exemption for small business shares and qualified farm property, the rollover of capital gains on the disposition of qualified small business shares, and tax credits for scientific research and experimental development. Individuals who invest in shares of an LSVCC receive a 15 percent federal tax credit, up to a maximum of $750. LSVCCs also qualify as investments for Registered Retirement Savings Plans. Most provinces also provide credits.

Action - Encourage the development of new technology and products by encouraging research through tax regimes, centres of excellence and the Matching Investment Initiative.

Canada has a variety of programs and incentives in each of these areas aimed at encouraging research.

Canada's scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax incentive program to promote spending on research and development is one of the most advantageous systems in the industrialized world. The federal income tax incentives for SR&ED provide broadly based support for all types of SR&ED performed in every industrial sector in Canada. It provides over $1.5 billion of investment tax credits (ITCs) on an annual basis to about 11,000 businesses.

Qualifying current and capital expenditures on SR&ED in Canada are fully deductible and any expenditure not deducted in a year can be carried forward indefinitely. ITCs are also provided for qualifying current and capital expenditures. The general rate of tax credit is 20 per cent and a 35 per cent rate is available to smaller Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs). SR&ED ITCs may be deducted from federal taxes otherwise payable. Unused credits are fully or partially refundable for smaller CCPCs. For all corporations, unused tax credits can be carried back three years or carried forward 10 years.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency recently announced a streamlined application process to provide easier access to ITCs for Canadian agricultural producers who expend funds for SR&ED.

Canada increased funding in 2001 to the Advanced Research Granting Councils and the Networks of Centres of Excellence in Canada. Funding in the amount of $900 million is being provided over five years to fund and sustain two thousand 21st Century Chairs for Research Excellence at universities across Canada. At the present time, the Government of Canada funds about 169 university chairs.

The AAFC Science Horizons Program contributed $1.08 million to research projects that employ up to 200 recent graduates in agri-food science and veterinary medicine. Each project is eligible to receive a program grant of up to $12,000, which is matched by an industry sponsor.

The Matching Investment Initiative (MII) contributed $29.7 million to 975 agri-food research projects in the fiscal year 2000–2001 to help diversify agricultural and agri-food markets, products and production. Results include advances in research on cool climates, ginseng, carrot rust fly control, soybeans, pork production, wheat midge control, seed germination, and detection of blight pathogens in dry beans. A description of the MII program and a users' guide are available at *http://res2.agr.ca/research-recherche/industry/mii/match.html.*

The Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy includes the Science Horizons Program, which funds science and technology internships to help young graduates bridge the gap between education and employment through work experience in scientific and technological fields, and to help them obtain longer-term employment.

Part IV: Implementation and Monitoring of *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*

We will implement, monitor, and follow up Canada's Action Plan for Food Security.

At the launching of *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security* in October 1998, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Honourable Lyle Vanclief, established the Food Security Bureau (FSB), a virtual organization currently located within the Global Affairs Bureau of AAFC, with a mandate to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan and report on progress to the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The Joint Consultative Group on Food Security was re-established to carry out this task. Its current membership is made up of:

- 45 individuals representing 12 federal departments and agencies;
- 17 individuals representing the provincial and territorial governments; and
- 35 individuals representing 30 organizations interested in domestic and international food security.

To facilitate further monitoring of food security, Health Canada, along with Statistics Canada, developed questions about food insecurity for inclusion in the Canadian Community Health Survey. This allowed for estimation of national, provincial and potentially local prevalence rates of certain dimensions of food insecurity. The data will be available in 2002. Also, Health Canada commissioned a discussion paper[16] on measuring household and individual food insecurity in Canada.

Most of Canada's provinces and territories are monitoring issues related to Canada's Action Plan as illustrated in the following examples.

The Province of Saskatchewan has been participating in initiatives to strengthen collaboration among food security programs in the province, which have been supported through initiatives such as the Population Health Promotion (PHP) Demonstration Sites for Primary Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes. The public health nutritionists have begun to collect food-cost information from across the province to support a number of food security initiatives. The public health nutritionists have begun a project to more clearly outline how they can contribute to food security in the province. Food security networking continues, and food security support through the PHP demonstration sites is well underway. Food costing information has been collected twice and the plan for greater involvement in food security has begun.

The Province of New Brunswick carried out a survey in 1999–2000 to assess the status of food available for all New Brunswick schools, and the Province of Quebec funded research to examine the effects of alternative practices on food insecurity in the regions of Quebec.

The *Working Together: Civil Society Input for Food Security in Canada Conference* was conceived by the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto, as the first stage of a five-year research program to evaluate existing food security initiatives at the local, regional, national and international levels in Canada, and to contribute to the policy-making process. The conference, held in June 2001, at Ryerson Polytechnic University, brought together over 150 representatives of various Canadian food security organizations, food banks, community health agencies, social service agencies, farmers' organizations, and representatives of various government agencies. AAFC, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Health Canada, and the International Development Research Centre provided funding for the conference. One of the results was a resolution to create the Canadian Food Security Network, which is now being established and may be reached through Mustafa Koc at *mkoc@ryerson.ca* or *foodsec@ryerson.ca*. One of its key activities will be to monitor progress on the implementation of *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*.

IV INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

International development requires an enormous global effort. It is a complex, long-term process that involves all of the world's people, governments and organizations at all levels. Canada, like other industrialized countries, provides development assistance in the form of goods, services, the transfer of knowledge and skills, credit and financial contributions.

The Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments are working with the agriculture and agri-food industry to develop an architecture for agricultural policy to contribute to the sector's growth and profitability in the 21st century. The objective of this new approach is to position the sector as the world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally responsible production. It will also have considerable benefits for Canadians as it will promote increased environmental stewardship and more complete food safety and food quality assurance systems.

Internationally, the approach will be to link all aspects of Canada's international activities related to agriculture, including market development and investment, trade policy, technical issues and international development. Recognizing the importance of capacity building in developing countries, Canada will enhance its efforts to work with countries to share expertise in agriculture and agricultural trade policy.

Canada has traditionally been a strong supporter of agriculture and rural development in developing countries and primarily provides assistance through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) (*http://www/acdi-cida.gc.ca*) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (*http://www.idrc.ca/*).

CIDA is the lead player in delivering Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Program. Canada concentrates on six priority areas and the disbursements for 2000/2002 in these areas were:

• basic human needs	37.8 percent
• human rights, democracy and good governance	16.2 percent
• private-sector development	11.0 percent
• infrastructure services	9.6 percent
• the environment	9.5 percent
• gender equality	5.0 percent

The IDRC is a public corporation created by the Government of Canada to help communities in the developing world find solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems through research. This mandate includes improved food security. IDRC's three broad corporate program areas are: social and economic equity, environment, and natural resource management information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development. IDRC supports research projects in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. The research areas along with the regions form the basis of programming opportunities. The main vehicles of program delivery involve Program Initiatives and Secretariats.

In addition, a number of federal and provincial government departments participate in development work.

Working with partners in the private, public and civil sectors, in Canada and in developing countries, and with international organizations and agencies, Canada supports foreign aid projects in more than 100 developing countries in the world.

Commitment Three: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high- and-low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.

Action - Support the implementation of conventions on biodiversity, climate change, and desertification and increase efforts to promote the negotiation of an international convention on forests among Canada's development partners and in international fora.

Canada has supported the implementation of international conventions on natural resources management, and supports those already negotiated, in areas such as biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

Canada was one of the first countries to ratify the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and has hosted the United Nations Secretariat for the Convention since 1995 in Montreal. In 2001, Canada committed to continue support ($1.8 million) for the next three years. Canada and the Secretariat are playing a key role in preparations for the Rio Summit + 10, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002. In addition to the CIDA contribution, other departments and governments (including DFAIT and the Government of Quebec) are contributing US$1 million per year for three years.

Canada has fully supported the ongoing development and implementation of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, by being a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol.

Other highlights of recent support include:

- The Canada Climate Change Development Fund (CCCDF), a $100-million initiative, combines technology transfer with a capacity-building approach to help developing countries reduce the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to sustainable development. The CCCDF works in four programming areas: emissions reduction, sequestration, adaptation, and core capacity building. In addition, $10 million will be contributed to help some of the Least Developed Countries to identify problems caused by climate change and to adopt measures to cope with those problems.

- Canada further contributes to a $5 million Canadian Cooperation Fund on Climate Change with the Asian Development Bank.

- Canada is implementing the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* (CCD) and its first official report, *Desertification: A Canadian Perspective,* was updated in 2000. The approach to combat desertification emphasizes poverty reduction, capacity building, and local initiatives with broad participation. The geographic concentration is in Africa and since 1995, hundreds of projects have been implemented through National Action Plans (NAP) in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal.

- In Asia, Canada is active in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A new initiative in Laos PDR aims to promote food security, reinforcing synergies between meeting basic human needs and the protection of the environment. Another project in India combines the conservation of biological diversity with the fight against desertification.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, efforts focus on combating desertification through better natural resources management and capacity building within governments and with community groups. Work is being done with local NGOs in Peru, the Dominican Republic and Haiti to help communities achieve sustainable agriculture. In Haiti, efforts have been going on for many years to reclaim degraded land.

- In Africa, the concentration is mostly on combating desertification, with several new initiatives underway. The $40-million Food Security Program in the North of Ghana supports partnerships among researchers, extensionists, local government and community organizations to address land degradation and agricultural productivity. A large food security program is supported in the Horn of Africa as well, where land degradation is severe. The new Western Africa Rural Foundation to develop capacity for better natural resources management has been launched as well.

- In Central and Eastern Europe, support is provided for a joint initiative between McGill University of Montreal and Mount Royal College of Calgary to work with the Interstate Coordination Water Commission to resolve long-standing water and land-use problems in Central Asian states bordering the Aral Sea.

- With multilateral and regional partners, Canada substantially contributes to the core budgets and special funds, such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), of partners involved in sustainable agriculture and natural resources management. This includes regional organizations such as the *Comité Permanent Inter-États pour la Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel* (CILSS) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), who face major desertification challenges.

Canada also helps to fund a wide array of multilateral and regional organizations, including FAO and other UN agencies, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), regional development banks, and specialized bodies such as the GEF, CILSS and SADC. A number of new initiatives began in 1999, many of which are being implemented with the support of local and Canadian civil society. IFAD is the official institution housing the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

There has been very active support for public awareness activities, and numerous means for communicating messages on desertification have been developed: films, teaching kits, Internet tools, press kits and CDs. With support from Canada, the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) Canada produced a 1999 feature film on desertification, and in 2000 released two short educational films on food security. These are to be included in teaching kits made available to schools across Canada. A partner NGO, *Solidarité Canada Sahel,* hosted an event to define ways that the NGO community could work toward implementing the Convention. In 1999, Canada marked the fifth World Day to Combat Desertification by launching its desertification Web page, which highlights new and ongoing Canadian initiatives.

IDRC, which is research oriented, is contributing to finding solutions to environmental problems through a number of Program Initiatives and Secretariats.

- The People, Land and Water Initiative focuses on soil management and water quality in Africa and the Middle East. It has also assisted countries in defining useful indicators to monitor the implementation of the *Convention to Combat Desertification*.

- The goal of IDRC's Program on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity is: "To promote, through research, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous and local communities through the application of gender considerations, and local and indigenous knowledge to the development of appropriate technologies, local institutions and policy frameworks."

- The Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (ECOHEALTH) endeavours "to improve human health by supporting transdisciplinary and participatory research on the structure and function of stressed ecosystems on which children, women and men depend for their lives and livelihoods and by applying this knowledge to the development of appropriate and effective interventions and policies."

- The Cities Feeding People Program (CFP), created in 1997, has become the lead vehicle world-wide for development research on urban and peri-urban agriculture. CFP works with international agencies, universities and institutes, national and local governmental and non-governmental organizations and professional associations, to design, validate, disseminate and evaluate the following:

    - space-confined production systems for low-income urban producers (mainly in sub-Saharan Africa), with an emphasis on recycling nutrients and managing risks and benefits various systems pose to human health;
    - appropriate wastewater treatment and reuse systems, especially domestic grey water in North Africa and the Middle East; and
    - policies and systems to address the competition over access to urban resources, as well as the role of rural-urban interactions in urban food supply and food security.

  In addition, CFP has been advising other institutions to set up their own programs on urban food security and urban agriculture, particularly in Europe and Latin America.

- The International Model Forest Network Secretariat, located at IDRC, fosters cooperation and collaboration through the creation of model forests that use community-based governance processes. These stakeholder partnerships work to advance the management, conservation, and sustainable development of forest and other resources in the model forest area.

- The Project on Nagaland Environment Protection and Economic Development (NEPED) has as its objective the sustainable management of the natural resource base of the State of Nagaland, for the benefit of the people of Nagaland.

Canada will host the Twelfth World Forestry Congress in Quebec City in 2003. At the Congress, Canada will share with the rest of the world its experience in the sustainable development of the forest sector's many resources in an ecologically, culturally, socially and institutionally diverse universe. With its vast expanses of natural forests, Canada has, over the years, successfully integrated numerous partners into the process of forest management.

Canada's non-governmental and civil society organizations are active, with the support of the Government of Canada, in an array of programs and projects to support sustainable development. Some examples are:

- USC Canada has undertaken activities in Canada and Mali relating to the Desertification Convention. These include participation in the Desertification Committee of the Canadian NGO consortium *Solidarité Canada Sahel* and in several meetings of the Desertification Convention as a civil society representative on the official Canadian delegation. The coordinator of USC's Seeds of Survival program in West Africa and the Sahel was nominated by Canada to the Roster of Independent Experts under the Convention, and in January 2001 was awarded the *Solidarité Canada Sahel* Prize for outstanding commitment and sustained efforts to combat desertification in West Africa and the Sahel.

- Inter Pares' counterpart, UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative) has been extensively involved in the drafting of new biodiversity legislation in Bangladesh and has been contributing to the understanding of the role of farmers as authentic producers of scientific knowledge that must be linked to the formal agricultural science knowledge system. Also, UBINIG has been active in major UN summits such as the Earth Summit, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Food Summit, where food security, environment, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods were brought to the forefront of international debate.

Action - Continue to participate in the negotiation of the Biosafety Protocol, a new international instrument under the Biodiversity Convention for the safe transfer and handling of living organisms modified by biotechnology.

Negotiation of the final text of the *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, in which Canada actively participated, has been completed and Canada signed the Protocol in April 2001. This instrument addresses the transboundary movement of living organisms modified through modern biotechnology (LMOs). The protocol complements other mechanisms for biosafety specific to the safe transfer and handling of LMOs regarding their potential to adversely affect biological diversity. Canada continues to participate in intergovernmental fora on implementation of the protocol, has taken a leadership role in financing and chairing meetings of technical experts to clarify certain provisions of it, and is working towards its ratification. An interdepartmental group is also examining the regulatory and legal issues associated with ratification with relation to government policy and industry practice.

Action - Encourage and participate in actions to build risk assessment and management capacity at all appropriate levels in order to reasonably ensure that the transfer, handling and/or use of living modified organisms derived from modern biotechnology is consistent with the preservation of biological diversity.

Canada supports projects that provide technical assistance to countries in support of institutional capacity building towards greater biosafety. Projects include those dealing with risk assessment capacity, information networks, and creating norms and standards. One such program, with

BIOTECanada (an umbrella network of professional and industrial organizations, universities, research centers and groups), has been assisting organizations in Argentina and Chile to strengthen public biosafety policy and regulatory capabilities, and increase public awareness about the safety of agricultural and food bio-products.

In addition, the Government of Canada, through CIDA, supports the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is examining the roles of biotechnology in food production in developing countries, and which supports national capacity building in biosafety to minimize risks.

Action - Continue promoting the rapid ratification and early entry into force of the UN *Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* and promote international support for FAO's *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

The *United Nations Convention on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*, commonly referred to in Canada as UNFA, was adopted in August 1995 by a UN Conference and was signed by Canada on December 4, 1995 and ratified on August 3, 1999. The UNFA entered into force on December 11, 2001 following ratification by the 30th State on November 11, 2001[14]. Canada played a leading role in the negotiations leading to the convening of the UN conference that developed the UNFA.

Canada continues to support responsible fisheries practices both domestically, through the implementation of the *Canadian Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, and internationally, through the promotion of the FAO Code of Conduct and its principles. The implementation of the Canadian Code of Conduct not only establishes fisheries guidelines that will help conserve fisheries resources, it sets a precedence in the international community by showcasing the strengths of the FAO Code of Conduct.

During the Thirty-First Session of the FAO Conference in Rome in November 2001, the FAO awarded the Canadian Responsible Fisheries Board and its Secretariat the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. The award recognizes the successful application of the FAO *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* domestically, and exceptional efforts to promote the Code internationally.

Action - Continue to participate in a highly visible leadership in international initiatives to manage persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including ratification of the *UN Economic Commission for Europe Aarhus POPs Protocol*, and promote expeditious conclusion of the UNEP POPs agreement based on sound science and risk management principles.

NOTE: the action statement would more correctly read "UNEP Stockholm Convention on POP".

Canada has taken a highly visible leadership role with respect to the international POPs initiatives, signing and ratifying the *UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Aarhus POPs Protocol* in June 1998. The final text for the Stockholm Convention, negotiated under the UN Environment Programme, was achieved on December 10, 2000 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Canada was the first country

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[15] Fisheries and Oceans Canada Backgrounder www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/communic/backgrou/2001/hq94(a)_.htm

to both sign and ratify the Convention, in May 2001. Efforts will now be directed towards promoting the expeditious ratification of the UNEP Stockholm Convention on POP.

Prior to this, Canada was the first country to establish an international capacity-building fund to deal with POPs under the UNEP Convention, with $20 million being provided to reduce or to eliminate the release of POPs, such as DDT, dioxins, furans or PCBs. This fund, administered by the World Bank, provides financial support to a variety of POPs-related projects in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, in partnership with UNEP, the GEF and other multilateral organizations. As part of a global effort to reduce the emission of dangerous substances and to find safer alternatives to these pollutants, POPs Funds are used to develop POPs inventories, establish the regulatory mechanisms and build institutional framework to control POPs releases, find alternative chemicals or strategies to the use of POPs, and improve natural resources management.

Action - Continue to negotiate the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at FAO, to establish terms of international cooperation in this field.

Canada played a lead role in these negotiations, which concluded at the FAO Conference in November 2001 with the adoption of the final text of a new *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Canada sought an agreement that will encourage all countries to work together to conserve the Earth's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to use them sustainably in support of global food security for present and future generations, and to share the benefits of their use in a fair and equitable way.

Action - Promote the adoption by developing countries and countries in transition of policies and programs that will remove impediments to increased food production by domestic producers (particularly the poor and women) and stimulate more effective processing and distribution.

Canada has assisted with the documentation and systematization of good municipal practices in urban agriculture (commercialisation and marketing, community organization, associations, production systems and regulations, cultural dimensions) in 10 cities of Latin America and the Caribbean. An international seminar resulted in the Quito Declaration, so far signed by 40 mayors of the region to show their support to urban agriculture and prioritize needs for further policy assistance. A permanent Working Group of Cities on Urban Agriculture is now overseeing the validation of several policy briefs. Project results informed a training course on urban agriculture for 24 municipal advisers, researchers and NGO leaders from 11 cities in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region. Urban agriculture was included for the first time as a focal point in the Habitat Istanbul+5 meetings.

In addition, Canada is a strong supporter of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), whose programming is key to analyzing and advocating change in food policies in developing countries.

Canada supports even stronger references to gender issues than those adopted by WFS, emphasizing local production, agro-processing and marketing, especially with the poor and women, through numerous bilateral and multilateral projects. For example, the $40-million Ghana Food Security program will seek ways of supporting women and their families in the north of Ghana through support of improved research and extension linkages, diversified agriculture, agro-processing and links to traditional and non-traditional markets. Other activities targeted to women and families are supported, such as health, community development and literacy programming, all of which can enable women and the poor to better participate in agricultural activities, in income generation, and improved food utilization.

A number of Canadian non-governmental and civil society organizations also are active in food security programming, many using matching funds programs provided by the Government of Canada, and some important examples are noted. As women play a major role in agriculture in most developing countries, they often are the beneficiaries of programs directed at improving agricultural production and sustainability.

The *Union des producteurs agricole*'s (UPA) development projects in Africa help groups of farmers join together to obtain better prices for the products they sell. They raise awareness of the importance of covering family food needs before marketing surplus products. A special effort is made to ensure that women are included in decisions on the choice of product and the marketing of agricultural products. The UPA has developed a training project on international trade issues for agricultural leaders in developing countries.

The Unitarian Service Committee (USC Canada) (*http://www.usc-canada.org/*) has a major program called Seeds of Survival (SoS), which promotes a participatory farmer-based approach to the conservation, enhancement and utilization of indigenous farmers' seeds. In 1999 it was one of two recipients of the CCIC International Cooperation Award, given annually for innovation among Canadian NGOs—in this case for promoting food security. The program provides alternatives for resource-poor farmers to build on and strengthen their food supply systems, and involves farmer–scientist collaboration, training, technical assistance and policy-advocacy. SoS has conducted 11 international training workshops on community-based conservation, enhancement and use of plant genetic resources. Three hundred sustainable agriculture practitioners from organizations in 29 countries have received training. To complement these workshops, USC has established the SoS Small Projects Fund to support community-based food security initiatives, and has supported organizations in Africa, Asia and Central America.

USC programs in West Africa, South and Southeast Asia have also focused on sustainable agriculture, as has a new program in Central America. Priorities have included the development of community gene banks, market gardening, agro-forestry, and the establishment of village school arboretums as a means of promoting education, conservation and use of indigenous natural resources. USC has developed a training module on biodiversity and organic farming, organized an international workshop on food security, and produced a 30-minute documentary film on biodiversity and organic farming.

PARTNERS in Rural Development focuses its programming in rural areas of Africa, South Asia, Central America and the Caribbean where it assists households and communities to meet their basic food, fuel and water needs. PARTNERS aims to develop models and improved practices that increase agricultural productivity on a sustainable basis and use improved production to generate new income which is vital for the purchase of adequate food and fuel and to pay for water, health and education services. In partnership with civil society organizations, the group fosters integration and coordination with government and private-sector efforts for agricultural development, especially with local extension and credit agents, entrepreneurs supplying farm inputs, and agricultural research institutions. Examples provided of their activities during 2000 - 2001 indicated that these projects alone had impacted on some 80,000 people in five countries.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank has supported the construction of sand dams in low agricultural potential areas of Kenya. These dams hold back seasonal rain waters in sandy soil overlaying clay. Farmers then use shallow wells to recover the water in the dry season to irrigate gardens and tree nurseries. Combined with land terracing activities, the sand dams provide a sustainable solution to water shortage and have a dramatic effect on both livelihoods (access to food) and local food production. Other aspects of this program include strong involvement of women in all aspects of planning and management, and strong community ownership for the projects undertaken. This program has shown that well-adapted new technology combined with strong local ownership ensures a positive and sustainable impact.

Oxfam Canada supports a range of community-based activities in Ethiopia and Southern Africa that focus on rural development, food security, and sustainable production for local consumption. One example of particular interest is the establishment of community cereal banks in Ethiopia, which permit farmers to sell seed grain when it is harvested, and to purchase it back for planting later in the year, at the price they sold it. This ensures that farmers get a fair price for their production, and that locally adapted seed varieties are available for future production. Oxfam also supports organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean that place a priority on food security. For example, in Peru a curriculum change at an agricultural university has ensured that the role of women in Peruvian agriculture is understood and accurately reflected in teaching materials and practice. Oxfam has also supported a Cooperative Farmers' Organization in Cuba.

Inter Pares provided support to its counterpart, UBINIG (Policy Research for Development Alternative), which was involved in the establishment of the South Asia Network on Food, Ecology and Culture (SANFEC) with NGOs members from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. SANFEC research has shown that enhancing local food production, generating knowledge on biodiversity-based production systems and sharing information among farmers and with policymakers can reduce pressures that can lead to conflict. The perspectives of food-producing communities, especially women farmers, have been included in debates on domestic and regional policies on agriculture and food security. In November 2001, Inter Pares, with support from Canada, organized the visit of six SANFEC representatives to Canada where they met with IDRC staff, CIDA officials, NGO workers, food security activists and organic producers in Ottawa and Montreal. Inter Pares also has supported work in the Philippines to promote rural democratization, food security, sustainable development and greater access and control over productive resources by marginalized sectors.

Inter Pares also has been active in Central America, providing institutional support to a Nicaraguan research centre exploring alternatives to traditional agriculture based on the biodiversity of the humid tropical forest. Also in Nicaragua, support has been provided to a viable and sustainable alternative production and trading model capable of empowering farm workers, especially women, and ensuring greater food security. In Guatemala, an organization of lawyers working with rural/indigenous landless peasants and assisting indigenous peasant communities to establish legal precedents for community land titles, was supported. In Peru, the focus is on support for NGOs and popular organizations for infrastructure and the reestablishment of agricultural production. One of the organizations involved has played a significant role in establishing a strong presence and legitimate role for indigenous rural women in local policy processes concerning agricultural development and securing access to land.

Inter Pares has been assisting agricultural development in rural and peri-urban areas of Rwanda. Projects such as reforestation, energy-efficient wood stoves, appropriate technologies, and the introduction of food crops suitable to local conditions (such as cassava) have enhanced food security status and contributed to the rehabilitation and reconciliation of communities affected by the war.

Action - Encourage the transfer of technology in agricultural production, marketing and storage through commercial, technical, cooperative and NGO arrangements, including direct farmer-to-farmer twinning arrangements.

Canada makes considerable contributions in relation to sustainable agricultural production, technology transfer, marketing, product transformation, storage and distribution. In many cases, Canada also seeks to influence the policy environment and the institutional capacity of those involved. Canada has a long history of bilateral projects supporting technology transfer. To influence organizations and producers, marketers, etc, Canada works through commercial, technical, cooperative and NGO arrangements, addressing a wide range of issues, from support to productive agriculture, agro-processing, marketing and institutional support. Canada is significantly involved in 48 developing countries, in the Americas, Africa and the Middle East and Asia, through approximately 150 bilateral and regional projects.

One example is the $5-million China Feed Industry Centre (CFIC) project in China, which complements the existing Ministry of Agriculture Feed Industry Centre located at China's Agricultural University in Beijing. The CFIC will be a centre for training and research to develop new technologies and alternative feed sources to meet the projected feed grain shortfall in future years. By developing alternative livestock feeds, more edible grains will be available to the Chinese population for direct consumption.

Other bilateral examples include the development of irrigation in Ethiopia; developing internal capacity for water resource management in Egypt; the Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service (GRATIS) project, which supports the development and transfer of appropriate agricultural and agro-processing technologies; the Tanzania Agro-forestry for Rural Development project; and the Bangladesh Farm to Market Enterprises project.

Canada was an active participant in the G8 Digital Opportunities Task Force (DOT Force), and is presently coordinating the implementation of the DOT Force Plan of Action, pursuant to the G8 Summit in Genoa in July 2001. This Plan sets out nine priority areas for action in support of efforts in information and communications technologies (ICTs) that will create wealth, facilitate sustainable development and reduce poverty. Plan items include establishing developing country national e-strategies, improving access and connectivity, and fostering entrepreneurship for sustainable economic development. The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas has a mandate "to support the Summit themes of strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing human potential through the use of information and communications technology."

Non-governmental and civil society organizations are also involved in technology transfer.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank recently organized a three-week trip for ten North Korean agricultural specialists to Canada where they visited research establishments, small-scale processing units, and individual farms and farm families. The visitors took detailed notes of specific ideas, and explored them with the Canadians involved. After the visit, the delegation reported that they had already applied several of these ideas in North Korea.

In its SoS programs around the world, USC Canada has created mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of ideas, methods, experiences, information and even genetic materials among farmers. USC uses participatory approaches, farmer-to-farmer and community-to-community exchanges, exchanges between extension agents and farmers, and between scientists and farmers—at the field, village, community, landscape, national, regional, continental and global levels.

In its promotion of sustainable agriculture, Oxfam Canada supports a national Federation of Cooperatives in Nicaragua that includes, for example, farmer-to-farmer exchanges on techniques for coffee and basic grains production.

An Inter Pares–supported organization in Bangladesh demonstrated that mutual support and local seed varieties can be used to assist farmers in times of distress. Following massive flooding, a program of seed exchange was organized in which farmers in non-flooded areas freely provided seeds to various community-based "seed wealth centres." These seeds were in turn given to farmers in flood-damaged areas who had lost their seeds and who agreed to return a portion of the seeds from the next harvest to the seed wealth centres. In this way, farmers supported each other while strengthening the collection and preservation of local seed varieties.

The preservation of crop genetic diversity is an important element in sustainable agriculture policies. Yet in times of food crises, local seed stocks are often consumed as food. A member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, with its local partner, provided food-grade rice and some cash to farmers in northern Sierra Leone in exchange for their stocks of local varieties of rice. The local rice seed was then stored by the local cooperative, and labour costs were paid using the imported food aid rice. Local farmers later purchased the local seed back, for planting season, at a concessional price and were therefore able to maintain the local variety of rice.

Action - In recognition of the importance of research to the development process, continue to build research capacity in developing countries (NARS, private sector, universities and NGO networks), so as to build up the critical mass to tackle the many aspects of food insecurity.

Canada has been a prominent contributor to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and its research centres, which have demonstrated highly effective examples in building research capacities in developing countries.

Canada currently supports regional and national agricultural research systems through such projects as the East Africa Cereals project, the India Sorghum Hybrid Development project, the Soya Privatization and Promotion projects in Sri Lanka, SPAAR, and the recently completed Ghana Grains Development Project. A new research and extension project, FARMER, will begin in 2002 as part of Canada's Food Security Program for the North of Ghana.

Canada, through the IDRC, has established a number of Secretariats that support research in various regions of the world:

- Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA), to finance research on economy and environment;
- Asian Development Research Forum, to produce and propagate policy innovations for sustainable growth and development in Asia;

- Program for Vietnam Economic and Environment Management, which provides funds and technical assistance to support international-standard, policy-relevant research by Vietnamese;
- Secretariat for Institutional Support for Economic Research in Africa, to reinforce African centres' capacity in research and management;
- Peru Consortium for Economic and Social Research, to strengthen economic and social policy research in Peru by enabling research centres to come together as a community; and
- The Environmental Management Secretariat, whose current objectives are to facilitate the development of technical and institutional capacity of local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), so they can implement environmental policies and improve participatory decision-making processes; and to foster partnership mechanisms between local governments and research centres to generate and use knowledge in the management of urban environmental problems.

The Agropolis Graduate Research Awards Program, hosted and funded by Canada, is part of the Global Initiative of the International Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA), coordinated by IDRC's CFP Program. The program has been supporting innovative masters' and doctoral field research by southern country students in urban agriculture around the world. In this program, field research must be designed, implemented and its results taken up by non-research partners, with several significant impacts already documented. Agropolis also has sponsored two regional training courses, in Dakar in 2000 and in Quito in 2001, on methodologies for action-research in urban agriculture.

Also, Canada has been supporting the involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations in research and extension field activities, as well as encouraging their involvement in the guidance of the CGIAR system, in biotechnology and in other research-related fora.

Research is an important component in all of USC's SoS activities. For example, one of their scientific advisors is conducting research on the changes of genetic diversity, field size, farmers' selection criteria and management practices over the last eight years in two regions of Ethiopia.

Also in Ethiopia, Oxfam Canada is supporting a labour study to analyze the work that women heads-of-household do to meet their families' food needs, in order to plan appropriate initiatives that support women in providing household food security.

Action - Continue to play a leading role in CGIAR's technical and governance deliberations and work with the centres to secure a stable funding base; support the new partnership process to enhance meaningful dialogue on programming and research; and ensure that the poor are explicitly targeted.

Canada has historically been a prominent contributor to, and continues to support, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and its centres. Canada's participation in CGIAR increases the effectiveness of its support for agricultural research by coordinating efforts with other donors, and increasing the range of opportunities they can identify for support. The fiscal year 1999–2000 funding was $12.8 million. Canada has maintained a high profile in the governance mechanisms of the CGIAR, including leadership in finance and re-organizational issues.

In addition, the CGIAR–Canada Linkage Fund (CCLF) was created to contribute to the CGIAR's goals of reducing poverty and food insecurity through strengthened collaboration between the CGIAR system and Canadian universities. Canada has advocated that CGIAR improve its targeting of the poor through strengthened links between research and development, including through the use of participatory research, regional and country-based priority setting, and a results-based management approach.

Support is provided also to the Canada–CGIAR Network Initiative (CCNI), an informal group of Canadians interested in better understanding and strengthening Canada's partnership with developing countries concerning agriculture, food and nutrition and related concerns of human well-being. Central to its interests are international research and development and the CGIAR.

In so far as technical cooperation is concerned, Canada's research scientists collaborate with several CGIAR centres on research themes of mutual interest, such as wheat breeding, quality and pathology, and developing potato resistance to diseases and insects. Plant Gene Resources of Canada has participated in International Plant Genetic Research Institute's (IPGRI's) global network of genebank collections, and benefits from genetic resources research commissioned by IPGRI. The Cities Feeding People Program (CFP) and the International Potato Centre are co-funding a three-year position for international research coordination on urban and peri-urban agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, to shoulder program delivery in that region by the CGIAR's new Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (SIUPA). USC's SoS program collaborates closely with the CGIAR centres to address food insecurity and agricultural sustainability issues in several regions. SoS brings a grassroots and NGO perspective to the CG by incorporating farmers' knowledge and practices through participatory approaches.

Action - Utilize the newly formed Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development to focus attention on the importance of population issues to sustainable development and food security.

Since its inception in 1997, the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD) has discussed and advocated information sharing on such issues as women's economic empowerment in sustainable development, meeting the requirements of the Cairo Programme of Action, environment and population, population structure and aging, international migration, women's reproductive rights, the African Woman Food Farmer Initiative, and the Beijing+5 Review. In the area of food security, CAPPD prepared a discussion paper and engaged in substantive discussions with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and with Japan in particular. The paper addressed the care for and capacity of the planet, both for population and food security.

Officials from AAFC, CIDA and Oxfam-Canada met with the CAPPD on October 25, 2001 and made presentations on *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security,* the role of food security in federal policies and programming and the issues and challenges faced in meeting the World Food Summit objective to end hunger.

Commitment Four: Trade and Food Security

We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.

Action - Continue to promote the benefits of rules-based trade during the next round of WTO negotiations and regional trade negotiations, such as those within the Asia-Pacific Economic Council and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). This includes, for example, pursuing the Asia-Pacific Economic Council's (APEC) fish and fish product Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) trade liberalization proposal.

NOTE: The name "Asia-Pacific Economic Council" in the above Action statement should be "Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation."

As a medium-sized, trade-dependent economy, Canada's current and future prosperity depends on open world markets, a stable trading environment, and a means to settle trade disputes based on rules rather than political or economic might. Canada's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) helps us to achieve these objectives. The WTO remains the cornerstone of Canadian trade policy and the foundation for Canada's relations with its trading partners and for Canada's bilateral and regional agreements and initiatives.

The launch of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, gave WTO members a clear and ambitious mandate for the agricultural negotiations which began in 2000. Members have agreed to negotiate substantial improvements in agricultural market access; reductions of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. Canada believes the intended outcomes will contribute to greater agricultural production and food security in developing countries by improving the stability and predictability of the prices of internationally traded agricultural products, and by increasing the size of export markets available to them. Furthermore, all aspects of the negotiations will reflect special and differential treatment for developing and least-developed countries to allow them to effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development. The Doha Declaration calls for a program of technical cooperation and capacity building to assist developing countries, including the least-developed and low-income countries in transition, adjust to and benefit from an open and rules-based multilateral trading system.

Canada also participates in other multilateral fora and negotiations that influence and guide the international trade policy agenda. This includes meetings of the G7/G8 major economies; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum; and United Nations (UN) economic institutions and agencies.

Action - Participate in a discussion to review the relationship between trade, trade agreements and food insecurity in order to develop and support research on the impacts of trade policies on food security.

Canada will continue on work related to the WTO agriculture negotiations, both in terms of contributing to better understanding of the needs of developing countries, as well as identifying measures and provisions that can enable developing countries effectively take account of their development needs, including food security and rural development, in consultation with Canadians and through outreach with developing countries.

Civil society, through the formation of the Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group, and its Trade Policy Subgroup, has made an important contribution to advancing the dialogue on the relationship between trade, trade agreements and food insecurity. The group examines the relationship between agricultural trade liberalization and food security for the rural poor in developing countries where it has established extensive contacts with NGOs, research organizations and academic institutions. It has developed proposals for effective and appropriate special and differential treatment provisions in WTO agricultural trade negotiations. Federal government officials from AAFC, DFAIT and CIDA have met with the group on several occasions during 2000-2001. Also, the group prepared detailed responses to a series of trade discussion papers, to assist Canada in developing negotiating positions that enhance food security. Their advocacy has included:

- strong support for the inclusion of a Development Box in the WTO *Agreement on Agriculture*;
- effective implementation of the food aid and technical assistance aspects of the WTO Marrakesh Decision; and
- disciplines on the abuse of food aid through monetization.

World Vision Canada produced a discussion paper entitled *Why Children Stay Hungry*, which analyzes the impact of the WTO *Agreement on Agriculture* (AoA) on the food security of developing countries. It proposes changes to the AoA it considers would enhance food security.

Oxfam's advocacy efforts in Canada focus on the issue of trade and its impact on food security. Oxfam also assists NGOs in the South to conduct research and advocacy on matters relating to food security and trade.

Inter Pares' counterpart based in Thailand, Focus on the Global South, coordinates the Southeast Asia Food Security and Fair Trade Council, which has members in seven Southeast Asian nations drawn from various networks and people's organizations. The Council's main function is to conduct research and advocacy related to agricultural trade and food security, and to promote a common policy on food security in international and regional decision-making bodies.

Action - Facilitate the preparedness of developing countries for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations through a number of measures, such as capacity building and the exchange of technical expertise.

Canada supports capacity building in developing countries so that they may more effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations. For example, Canada has contributed to the creation of the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law in Geneva. The centre provides training and legal assistance to developing countries to enable them to better participate in WTO dispute resolution processes and to understand their WTO rights and obligations.

Canada also strongly supports the Integrated Framework, an initiative of the WTO which brings together five core agencies (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, UNCTAD, the UN Development Programme and the International Trade Centre) to coordinate their activities with a view to helping least-developed countries further integrate into the multilateral trading system.

In addition, Canada is continuing its support of the International Trade Centre (ITC) with a $950,000 contribution. ITC is operated jointly by the WTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The ITC works with developing countries and economies in transition to set up effective trade promotion programs for expanding their exports and improving their import operations.

Most recently, Canada, through CIDA, committed $1 million to the WTO's Global Trust Fund. The fund is intended to support specific commitments made at the last WTO Ministerial in November 2001 in Doha, Qatar. These include enhancing the negotiating capacity of developing and least-developed countries. The funding will also be used to help these countries adjust to WTO rules and to implement their WTO obligations. The WTO Training Institute will receive $300,000 to provide trade policy training, particularly for officials from least-developed countries. Canada is also contributing $500,000 to *La Francophonie* to work in partnership with the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation, an organization that assists developing countries that do not have offices in Geneva.

Also, Canada, through IDRC's Trade, Employment, and Competitiveness (TEC) program initiative, supports the development of long-term capacities within developing countries through research that:

- improves their bargaining positions and negotiation capacities;
- contributes to the design of instruments, processes, and procedures which enable them to better profit from global opportunities; and
- promotes coherence between their domestic economic policies and their international trade policies.

For example, TEC supported the development of the Latin American Trade Network (LATN), which gathers researchers and policy officials from several Latin American countries to conduct research that supports the process of agenda building and policy formulation on the various trade and trade-related issues taken up in international negotiations, including competition policy, intellectual property rights, trade and the environment, and liberalization in the agriculture sector.

Canada also contributes to capacity building through other multilateral institutions, such as the FAO and IICA, and on bilateral and regional levels.

As an example of NGOs involvement, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank has contracted with a Kenyan NGO, which has long experience working with farm groups in Kenya, to undertake a two-year research project to document the effect of trade liberalization on various types of farmers in Kenya. In addition to collecting hard data, this project will make concrete proposals for strengthening the aspects of the Agreement on Agriculture that protect or enhance food security. To date, project staff have assisted Kenyan delegates to the WTO Committee on Agriculture formulate Kenya's proposal on agriculture trade reform (G/AG/NG/W/136).

The Project on Globalization, Environmental Crisis and Social Change in Bangladesh aims to deepen the understanding of changing livelihood options for the poor and dispossessed in Bangladesh as conditioned by environmental change and the accelerating pace of integration in the global sphere. The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan's mission is to improve the well-being of producers and users of bamboo and rattan while sustaining the resource base by consolidating, coordinating and supporting strategic research, adaptive research and development activities.

Action – Continue to encourage the international community to monitor the impact of trade liberalization in the agricultural sector on least-developed and net food importing developing countries as provided for in the WTO Marrakesh Decision and the Ministers' Singapore Declaration.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group is closely following the discussions about the implementation of the WTO Marrakesh Decision and the level of Canadian food aid provided, and is actively raising this issue.

Action - Work with industry to facilitate development of an internationally acceptable organic certification and accreditation system.

The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) worked with the organic sector to develop a voluntary organic standard to address every aspect of organic agriculture, from the point of seeding to sale. In April 1999, the proposed standard was adopted as the National Standard for *Organic Agriculture* CAN/CGSB-32.310-99. The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) has the authority to accredit independent certifying bodies that verify that the national standard has been applied before an organic claim can be made. In January 2002, OCPP/Pro-Cert Canada Inc. was the first Canadian organization to be granted ISO Guide 65 compliant status by the SCC.

Currently, no federal regulations specifically deal with products of organic agriculture. However, these products must comply with all applicable legislation, such as the *Food and Drugs Act*, the *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, and the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act,* and their Regulations.

As is the case with all national standards, the CGSB endeavours to periodically review and revise its standards when appropriate. The review of the *National Standard for Organic Agriculture* is currently underway in Canada and will take into consideration international certification and accreditation requirements.

Action - Support the WTO *Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* and work towards the development of international standards for food safety and animal and plant health at the *Codex Alimentarius*, the International Office of Epizootics, and the International Plant Protection Convention.

As a signatory to the WTO, Canada fully supports the WTO *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary* (SPS) *Measures* and, through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, continues to provide a leadership role in the SPS Committee.

Regarding the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, Canada has been an active member since its formation in 1962. Canada's involvement is coordinated through a contact point located in Health Canada, which has the mandate to establish domestic policies and standards for food safety and nutrition. Together with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a science-based food regulator, they are important contributors to Canada's Codex program.

Canada is actively involved in 23 Codex Committees in addition to the proceedings of the Commission itself plus the Executive Committee. Furthermore, Canada hosts the Codex Committee on Food

Labelling, the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (adjourned indefinitely) and, on a rotational basis with Australia, New Zealand and the United States, the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the Southwest Pacific.

Also through the CFIA, Canada is an active member of the *Office International des Épizooties* (OIE) and has continued to provide expertise on epidemiology through participation such as in the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathies Working Group, which designs science-based guidelines for susceptible species. Canadian veterinary experts also collaborate with standard-setting bodies to define risk assessment parameters for animal health.

In the area of plant health, in 2000–2001, Canada, through the CFIA, represented North America (the United States, Mexico and Canada) on the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) most influential international standard-setting committee, and contributed significantly to four of its eight international standard-setting meetings. In 1999–2001, the IPPC, which has 106 member-countries, adopted three new international standards and amended one existing standard.

Commitment Six: Promoting Investment

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low-potential areas.

Action - Support the efforts of developing countries and countries in transition to create a policy environment that is conducive to domestic and foreign investment, especially in areas that directly enhance sustainable food security.

Beyond its involvement with countries to build capacity to effectively participate in multilateral trade, Canada has been substantively involved in food and trade issues in a number of developing countries over the years. Canadian Official Development Assistance (ODA) support to improve internal markets takes many forms, such as support to restructuring the cereals market in Mali, the improvement of farm-to-market roads, irrigation and water management systems and other productive infrastructure, and capacity building of service providers, banks and credit institutions, policy making bodies and regulatory agencies. Many ODA projects in this area are targeted to women. In addition, Canada takes an active role in supporting regional policy analysis and trade organizations, such as CILSS and SADCC, and in product diversification and promotion.

Through IDRC's Cities Feeding People Program (CFP), Canada supports, in conjunction with UN Habitat (Nairobi), the Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC), FAO and the CGIAR's Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture, a world survey of city experiences with credit and investment for urban agriculture interventions, in the context of Rio+10. This responds to demands from both local governments and development agencies and seeks to:

- define practical guidelines and recommendations on where and how credit and investment have a major impact;
- support and draw recommendations that effectively can guide upscaling;
- suggest policy-related developments needed for promotion elsewhere; and

define the agencies' roles in future support.

Similarly, support is provided to a regional project of the Municipal Development Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (Harare) to document and analyse strategies and procedures used to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts, and foster collaboration over access to peri-urban agriculture resources for the urban poor. With the UN Habitat UMP-LAC, funding is provided for a regional project to design and validate a series of methods and tools to integrate urban agriculture into urban physical planning.

Action - Encourage countries to reduce excessive military expenditures, and redirect resources to increase public investment in areas which will enhance food security, such as health, education, agriculture and environmental protection.

Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) mandate and priorities firmly support the shift toward greater public investment in essential social development and sustainable development areas. The Government's foreign policy statement, *Canada in the World,* treats foreign policy as an integrated whole, in which international assistance is seen—as are trade and diplomacy—as part of a larger policy that seeks to achieve three objectives:

- an investment in prosperity and employment;
- a contribution to global security; and
- assistance to the less fortunate for a strong sense of social justice, democratic governance and participatory government.

Canada's ODA aims to support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world. In September 2000, Canada produced *CIDA's Social Development Priorities: A Framework for Action*. The Framework provides for increased resources devoted to health and nutrition, basic education, HIV/AIDS, and child protection, with gender equality as part of all these priority areas. These will strengthen CIDA's efforts in its basic human needs priority, and will contribute to Canada's human-rights and human-security agenda. This was followed in February 2001 with the release of CIDA's *Sustainable Development Strategy 2001-2003: An Agenda for Change*. Both of these documents are available on the CIDA Web site (*www.acdi-cida.gc.ca*).

The ODA mandate also includes working with the countries in transition (CITs) of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) to support democratic development and economic liberalization in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states by building mutually beneficial partnerships.

In addition, Canada plays an active role in consultative groups, donor consortia and bilateral negotiations to encourage countries to set social development priorities with public monies. Canada supports Country Development Framework processes as well as the implementation of sector-wide financing that is "owned" by the local and national government but tied to performance criteria in social development.

Action - Through the Export Development Corporation and the Industrial Cooperation Program of CIDA, support Canadians who wish to invest in developing countries, including in areas directly related to food security.

Canada, through CIDA's Industrial Cooperation Program (CIDA-INC), provides financial support and advice to Canadian businesses planning sustainable business activities in developing countries in a variety of sectors. It reduces the risks to Canadian firms by sharing the costs unique to doing business in developing countries, and those associated with providing training, the participation of women, and a clean environment. Financial support can be provided through one of CIDA-INC's three mechanisms:

- the Investment Mechanism;
- the Professional Services Mechanism; and
- Private Participation in Infrastructure projects.

Also, Canadians may invest in developing countries through the Renaissance Eastern Europe Program (REEP).

In addition, in 2000, consultation with NGO partners was combined with private-sector organizations in order to identify viable linkages and working partnerships. This is a step forward in facilitating more effective program delivery.

Action - Support the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP) and direct financial and technical assistance to microcredit institutions in the third world, to maximize the opportunities of the poor, both men and women, to invest in their own food security.

Since the inception of CGAP, Canada, again through CIDA, has been very active in its implementation. CIDA served as Chair of the Working Group on Poverty Yardsticks and Measurement Tools until September 1999, and continues to serve as a member of the CGAP executive committee.

Microfinance is another tool used to reduce poverty and, since its inception in 1968, Canada has supported microfinance and microenterprise development (MFD/MED). Targeted toward the poor and women, MFD/MED is a tangible means of improving access to food and to improving nutritional well-being. A variety of projects focusing on microcredit and microenterprises are supported in all geographic areas of the developing world. These programs range from targeting agricultural communities, allowing for investments in farming and agro-processing, to targeting poor, food-insecure non-farm populations. Canada's Microfinance and Microenterprise Development Institutional Action Plan is available at *www.acdi-Canada.gc.ca.*

In addition, Canada is involved in learning and networking about MFD/MED through:

- participating in the Microfinance Network;
- supporting the Microfinance Network and a Virtual Library on Microcredit;
- participating in fora with partners and practitioners to evaluate experiences; and
- fostering links to other important MFD/MED organizations.

Commitment Seven: Implementing and Monitoring

We will implement, monitor, and follow up the World Food Summit Plan of Action at all levels, in cooperation with the international community.

Action - Seek to ensure that the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adopts procedures to encourage the effective participation of relevant actors of civil society in the CFS monitoring process, recognizing their critical role in enhancing food security.

Canada has a strong tradition of encouraging civil society participation in various UN events, and the CFS and WFS+5 are part of that ongoing commitment. Canada has consistently supported the CFS in its efforts to engage civil society in deliberations. In addition to inclusion of representatives of Canadian civil society in the Canadian delegations, Canada has made strong interventions to encourage more participation by NGOs, and Canadian NGOs have made interventions on behalf of the Canadian delegation during meetings. As well, Canada has supported the FAO in its intent to include civil society as part of the WFS+5: *five years later*. In addition, Canada integrates Canadian non-governmental and civil society actions into the WFS progress reports, which is facilitated by ongoing dialogue with them through an established domestic forum, the Joint Consultative Group on Food Security.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group was established in 2000 to provide internationally focused follow-up to *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*. The group's 10 members have an active interest in food security programming in developing countries. They share research and analysis, and carry out joint advocacy in two areas of concern: food security in Canadian ODA policy, and food security in Canadian International Agricultural Trade Policy. The Policy Group authored a proposal outlining elements of a renewed food security priority for Canada, including the promotion of sustainable agricultural development and rural livelihoods, support for community building between displaced and local people, and an increase in the quantity and effectiveness of Canadian food aid. They also provided detailed recommendations to strengthen the food security aspects of CIDA's draft *Health and Nutrition Action Plan*. Several members of the Policy Group are cooperating with IDRC on a research project to document the link between agricultural development and food programming on the one hand and long-term food security on the other. The Policy Group is collecting documentation on the effect of international trade rules on food security in developing countries and is advocating for the inclusion of food security concerns in Canada's international trade policy.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group has also been active in the Consultative Group on Food Security established by AAFC to follow up on *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*. The meetings have provided a forum for all stakeholders involved in producing *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security* to discuss common concerns, including Canada's negotiating positions at the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The Chair of the NGO Policy Group co-chairs the Consultative Group, and is one of two civil society representatives on the Canadian Delegation to the FAO Committee on Food Security.

Inter Pares has assisted SANFEC activities, including organizing a recent tour of SANFEC delegates to Canada to discuss the link between food security and regional peace in South Asia. In June 2001, Inter Pares participated in the Ryerson Conference "Working Together" and the CIDA International Cooperation Days.

Action - Encourage developing country governments to prepare national plans of action for food security, according a role to civil society and to assist civil society to play a more active role in working with governments to find sustainable solutions to food security.

Canada has consistently stressed the importance of national plans for poverty reduction, including food security, in all its development efforts. Canada has funded activities in many countries, such as Ecuador, Ghana, and Ethiopia, to enhance civil society work in the area of food security. The broader approaches to poverty reduction include a strong civil society role in almost every instance to ensure sustainability and domestic ownership of activities.

In addition, recent efforts have focused on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) process, and the importance of having national poverty reduction strategies. Other efforts aimed at trade-related technical assistance in a multilateral forum, such as through the Integrated Framework, also include elements of poverty reduction and economic growth that would enhance food security.

Action - Encourage the organizations of the UN Development System and other multilateral development institutions to enhance their cooperation and coordination, particularly with regard to their field-level operations, in order to more effectively support developing country efforts to reduce poverty and enhance food security.

Canada has been a leader in encouraging the UN development system to enhance field-level coordination. In international events and board meetings, as well as behind the scenes, Canada has stressed the added value of the UNDP Resident Coordinator System and been actively engaged in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), where appropriate. Canada has encouraged the strong involvement of all players in the UN Development Group as well as the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In addition, in preparations for all UN events, such as Financing for Development, Canada has consistently stressed the importance of including all multilateral actors. Our work in the G20 and OECD also include elements of better coordination and cooperation of all actors.

Since 1999, Canada, through IDRC's Cities Feeding People Program (CFP), has been supporting the establishment and operation of an international Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF). Based at ETC International in the Netherlands, RUAF operates through regional focal points on five continents (through e-conference, training workshops, directories, bibliographies, readers, an international magazine, videos, etc.). IDRC/CFP has facilitated collaboration between RUAF and the UN Development Group (FAO, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS), UNDP, WHO), as well as bilateral agencies. CFP-supported projects have produced manuals and contributed data to UN databases such as Urbanet. CFP has been a catalyst of FAO-UNCHS collaboration on a Parallel Event on Urban Food Security and Urban Agriculture at Istanbul+5. CFP has contributed to the IFPRI Policy Brief series on Achieving Urban Food and Nutrition in the Developing World, and is supporting the edition of policy briefs on urban agriculture for municipal authorities in LAC.

In addition, Canada has stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation in all international discussions, including with FAO, CGIAR, IFPRI, WFP, the Commonwealth, OECD, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNAIDS, GEF, ICRC, OCHA, the World Bank, IFAD, and the regional development banks (ADB, AfDB, IADB, and CDB).

Action - Encourage multilateral development institutions to manage for results and to better ensure that their operations are contributing to the achievement of internationally agreed targets, including the target of reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015.

When partnering with multilateral development agencies on capacity building and good governance, Canada has been a leader in stressing the importance of managing for results, or Results-Based Management (RBM), which is linked to the International Development Goals (IDGs). In fact, Canada's recent adoption of the Social Development Priorities includes as its premise a commitment to the IDGs, which was reiterated at the Millennium Summit, where Canada was an active participant. Canada also stressed the importance of the IDGs for the outcomes of the UN Conference on Financing for Development. Canada has included RBM and the IDGs in all its programming, and stresses their importance in all international discussions relating to development, including, for example, with FAO, CGIAR, IFPRI, WFP, the Commonwealth, OECD, WHO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, GEF, ICRC, OCHA, the World Bank, IFAD, and the regional development banks (ADB, AfDB, IADB, and CDB). In addition, Canada has provided catalytic funding where appropriate to assist multilateral development institutions (MDIs) to better enable them to implement RBM techniques.

Action - Continue to support the development of food insecurity and vulnerability information mapping systems (FIVIMS) to measure targets and monitor progress for developing countries.

Canada has been involved since the inception of the FIVIMS process, at times engaging specialists to support the international planning effort, and participating in consultative meetings. In countries with active food security programs, such as Ghana, Canada is investigating ways to support nationally-led food security information and monitoring systems, and is also supporting the institutional strengthening of government organizations responsible for such systems.

In addition, Canada supports NGOs working on food security monitoring models and methodologies, particularly at the household level.

Action - Develop and use international and national indicators and monitoring efforts to identify food-insecure countries, regions and population groups and the types of interventions best suited to reduce food insecurity in developing countries and countries in transition.

The FAO has been mandated with monitoring progress toward reaching the WFS goals, but other institutions also have a role in developing indicators and statistics. Canada supports the use of a broad range of indicators that provide analytical inputs on the causes of food insecurity and malnutrition (such as lack of food energy, lack of micronutrients, poor sanitation, lack of maternal time for childcare, and heavy disease burden).

Canada supports indicators that:

- go beyond national food availability data (which may be incomplete);
- better measure food access for subgroups within a country (for example, variation in food security based on age, gender, ethnicity or geography);
- increase the use of data related to household food consumption and expenditure surveys;

- combine energy indicators with micronutrient intake, food safety and the effective biological utilization of food;
- balance food security indicators with malnutrition indicators to obtain sensitive, reliable information about whether people are currently malnourished or have been malnourished in the past; and
- provide information at the household, local, national, regional and global levels.

As part of its monitoring efforts, CIDA established a formal Working Group on Food Security to examine its corporate understanding of what constitutes food security programming and to find ways to monitor it more effectively.

Action – Provide periodic reports to the CFS on Canada's contribution to the World Food Summit.

Canada has met its commitments on reporting to the CFS on progress in implementing the WFS Action Plan. A Progress Report to the CFS on significant Canadian government policies, programs and activities affecting food security up until the end of 1997 was submitted. The *First Progress Report* on the implementation to the end of 1999 of commitments One, Two, Five and relevant parts of Commitment Seven of *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*, was submitted to the CFS in 2000. This, the *Second Progress Report* on the implementation of commitments Three, Four, Six and relevant parts of Commitment Seven to the end of 2001, is being submitted in 2002.

Action - Contribute to clarifying the content of the right to food, as stated in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, informing citizens of this human right and its meaning, and continue to support and work with the international community and governments at all levels to ensure the full realization of this right.

Canada recognizes the importance of the progressive realization of the right to food, as outlined in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The links between this right and the rights of women, the issue of poverty eradication and development are strong, making it important for Canada to ensure its appropriate definition and implementation.

Canada welcomes the activities of the United Nations' Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in clarifying of the right to food by developing and adopting "General Comment 12 – The Right to Adequate Food." This document, adopted in 1999, is the first detailed pronouncement by a United Nations Body on the content and the implementation of the right to food.

As agreed in the WFS Plan of Action, there is a continuing need to clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the right to be free from hunger, as well as "to give particular attention to implementation and full and progressive realization of this right." The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has undertaken several activities to better define and propose ways to implement the right, including several expert seminars on the subject. In 2000 the Commission on Human Rights also appointed a Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

Action - Engage in campaigns to promote the right to food, promoting the *International Code of Conduct on the Human Right to Adequate Food* and monitoring the extent to which the right to food is being respected, protected and fulfilled.

Canada held an expert workshop in October 2000 on the subject of economic, social and cultural rights. One third of the workshop was dedicated to a discussion of the right to food, and developed international and domestic understanding of the subject. The right to food was also discussed earlier at a workshop in October 1998. Reports on Conventions on Human Rights are widely available in Canada.

Action - Support the convening of a UN seminar on implementation of the right to adequate food, and remain closely involved in the development of the Commission on Human Rights resolution on the right to food.

Canada plays an active role at the Commission on Human Rights in the negotiations on the resolution on the right to food, and supports the efforts of the Committee in clarifying the content of this right and means to ensure its implementation. The organization of a fourth expert consultation on the right to food by the UN High Commissioner provides useful input to this process.

The Supreme Court of Canada has emphasized the importance of taking into account Canada's international obligations in interpreting and applying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While the Charter guarantees primarily civil and political rights, the extensive protection it provides to these rights significantly enhances protection of economic, social and cultural rights. For example, protection against discrimination in the provision of goods, services and facilities customarily available to the public enhance the protection of the right to food, respecting General Comment 12's guidance regarding the obligation to respect and protect this right. Violations of these and other provisions of the Charter are subject to judicial review.

A number of actions taken by Canadian federal, provincial and territorial government departments and agencies respond to the obligation to fulfil, as outlined in General Comment 12, the strengthening of "people's access to and utilizations of resources and means to ensure their livelihood, including food security." Some examples of these actions are outlined in Part VII – Update on Parts of Canada's First Progress Report (December 1999).

V LESSONS LEARNED

Canada has learned a number of lessons in implementing and monitoring its *Action Plan for Food Security*. The most noteworthy lessons are outlined below.

The Relationship between Poverty and Food Insecurity

There is a tendency among development practitioners to believe that programs aimed at reducing poverty will reduce food insecurity. While poverty is unquestionably a major contributor to food insecurity, not all of the poor are hungry. The hungry are generally the poorest of the poor and represent the hardest population to reach. Programs that are successful in reducing poverty do not always reach the most vulnerable of the food insecure. This reality has led to a growing recognition of the need for specific, targeted food security programming within a poverty reduction framework.

Measuring Food Security and Progress Made

It has proven very difficult to reliably assess changes in food security in the absence of established, internationally recognized indicators for food security. Domestically, Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-off Rate (LICOR) guidelines are used to measure low income incidence. However, these give only a partial view of food insecurity issues. In spite of some progress made by the FIVIMS working group, there is an urgent need to establish indicators for monitoring both national and household-level food security to be able to accurately and objectively measure progress in achieving the World Food Summit goal. This should be at least a national priority, but would be most useful as a multilateral and multi-stakeholder activity under the auspices of the FAO.

Canada places importance on results-based management (RBM) in all publicly financed programs. Managing for results ensures that development programming is for a clear-cut goal, such as the reduction of poverty and hunger. RBM techniques help hone the focus of programming to a manageable level that produces identifiable and sustainable results. Food security programming has sometimes suffered, however, from a restrictive view of RBM, resulting in a focus on near-term, quantifiable results only. Food security programming is often complex, long-term and multi-sectoral, requiring the development of monitoring systems based on both process and performance indicators. Additional efforts need to be made to be able to satisfy all of these requirements.

Multi-Stakeholder Involvement

Canada is committed to strong multi-stakeholder involvement in shaping policy and programs, both internationally and domestically. Canada values the contributions made by civil society as members of the delegations to international fora, such as the World Food Summit and the Committee on World Food Security. Civil society has made considerable contributions towards more effective Canadian development programming, through active involvement, analysis and dialogue.

The benefit of multi-stakeholder analysis and participatory approaches was demonstrated by the success of the deliberations leading to the development of the final text of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, where widespread consultation brought the views of civil society and small-scale farmers into the discussions, along with those of the commercial and scientific interests associated with genetic materials. As a result of including women and the disenfranchised in that process as well, much has been learned about tailoring institutions and services to meet the needs of women and the poor. This includes the need to involve these groups in project planning, implementation and evaluation. There is also an increased interest among all parties to look at indigenous knowledge and adaptive technologies as a community contribution to research.

Civil society and non-governmental organizations also have a strong contribution to make in monitoring progress. As they are often front-line participants, they can provide valuable input into the determination of progress being made and the appropriate approaches for development projects to take, particularly at the grassroots level. The need has been identified to seek a wider range of partners to implement activities and to bring innovation to the area of promoting non-traditional products, some for export, to improve livelihoods.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group has proven an effective forum to both improve NGO food security programming and to maintain and strengthen the commitment to food security in Canadian foreign policy. In addition to drawing from their own experience in food security programming, they have drawn on the experience of their colleagues in other countries through the various networks of which they are part. Domestic food security concerns will be addressed more consistently with the planned establishment of a Canadian Food Security Network, one of the primary outcomes of the federal government–supported "Working Together" Conference at Ryerson University in June 2001.

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group learned that effective advocacy requires the practical, on-the-ground experience of developing country residents whose food security is affected, along with a thorough understanding of the technical aspects of agricultural trade rules and negotiating forums. This in turn requires a sharp focus on particular issues in particular contexts. For example, World Vision Canada learned that developing countries' food security concerns could have been highlighted more effectively if it had linked its analysis of the WTO *Agreement on Agriculture* with World Vision's specific experience in food security projects.

Partnerships and Long-Term Commitment

Canada has adopted the development principles set out in the OECD document *Shaping the 21st Century*, which support effective partnerships, local ownership, improved donor coordination, a results-based approach, and greater coherence in the "non-aid" policies of industrialized countries, such as for trade, investment and technology transfer, which influence developing countries. In addition, Canada, through its various strategies, has set clear priorities on meeting basic human needs.

The value of North–South partnerships is demonstrated in Africa (Mali and Burkina Faso), where the volumes of grains and other products marketed by the organizations supported by international projects are growing every year. The average prices farmers receive are significantly higher than if the sales were being made without the support of organizations and the Canada-supported projects.

Also, support to the agricultural and food-related activities of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has been determined to be one of the most cost-effective interventions in development programming, resulting in large and tangible benefits to many of the poorest of the world's populations. CGIAR centres have also increased their efforts to address the more difficult technological issues facing the resource-poor farming community. Early evidence from the CGIAR–Canada Linkage Fund (CCLF) shows favorable long-term relationships forming between CGIAR centres and Canadian universities and research organizations, to the benefit of both. Past experience has shown institutional capacity building of research organizations takes a long-term commitment, often greater than 10 years

Sharing Research, Information and Best Practices

The development community, which includes government and civil society, has learned that technology transfer requires attention to traditional means of communicating, the recurrent costs for new systems, and institutional capacity development for sustainability. In its new programming in technology transfer, Canada is more inclusive of different types of partners and transfer mechanisms, and is taking into account the limitations and potential for more technological options, such as the Internet. In addition, "transfer" is being considered as occurring in several directions, not only from the technological "haves" to the "have-nots," because indigenous knowledge and local adaptation have provided many success stories.

There are opportunities for further partnerships of Canadian universities, research organizations and civil society to respond to requests for assistance, both directly within projects, and through multilateral organizations, from countries trying to sort out the positive and negative aspects of different types of technical applications, such as biotechnology and the agricultural-health interface.

Canada is committed to capacity building so that developing countries can actively participate in trade negotiations, as they are the most effective in advocating for their interests, including those of food security. Sustainable food security requires broad-based economic growth and poverty reduction. Integrated and targeted nutrition programs that simultaneously address food security, maternal and child care, and health, have the most impact in reducing protein-energy malnutrition, which is an important aspect of food security. Developing countries can make the most progress when efforts are part of a national plan that is demand-driven and has the broad support of all domestic actors as well as the assistance of the international community.

The benefit of improved cooperation and coordination between multilateral development institutions (MDIs) is substantial. The synergies that are created are greater than the sum of the parts, and allow for true development to take place faster, particularly in difficult circumstances. Through collective commitment and shared vision in the field-level operations, the international development goals are more likely to be met. Many national governments are overwhelmed by, and underequipped to deal with, the plethora of bilateral and multilateral agencies seeking partnerships and resources.

Community-Based Initiatives

A dominant factor is the willingness of rural communities in developing countries to organize and pursue strategies to solve their own problems. They are forming organizations to mobilize resources and reach out to access technical and financial assistance. This trend varies in strength from one area to another, but grows stronger as communities become aware of the limitations of government assistance. It is clear that many farmer organizations are ready to participate in development and conduct their affairs transparently and in democratic ways. Future programming in agriculture must build on this emerging capacity of farmer organizations, and strengthen these to meet the challenges now being faced in the poorest communities of the poorest developing countries.

Poverty reduction, and related reduction in food insecurity, remain the broad objective of microfinance and microeconomic development (MFD/MED) initiatives. However, experience shows that MFD/MED can be even more effective if complementary national and regional policies and systems are in place, such as an enabling legislature and regulatory environment that encourages the growth of strong, transparent and effective financial institutions; health care; basic education; and infrastructure services, particularly in rural areas.

For example, in the arid areas of Kenya, camel milk production is the most important means of achieving food security. PARTNERS in Development, a Canadian NGO, succeeded in fostering a substantial shift in government policies in this area, but the most important factor in influencing government and donor decision-makers was the demonstrable positive impact of programs on basic needs achieved within the target group. Similarily, Inter Pares, another Canadian NGO, has learned in Southeast Asia that sustainable policy change requires that civil society advocacy be grounded in direct experience and work on the ground.

Food-Health Relationship

In some rural areas in a number of developing countries, and especially in agro-ecological zones classified as marginal, achieving basic human needs has gradually become more and more difficult. These difficulties have arisen because of the:

- decreasing productivity of food crops and an increase in nutrition-related illnesses;
- decreasing productive labour force and increasing proportion of adults carrying HIV;
- decreasing returns on agricultural commodities and increasing real prices of social services; and
- decreasing availability of tangible assistance for smallholders in the face of increasing determination on their part to organize and help themselves.

Malnutrition interferes with the body's immune response system, rendering the individual more susceptible to disease, reduces the body's recuperative capacity, and prolongs recovery from illness.

Few communities in Sub-Saharan Africa have escaped HIV/AIDS. Poverty and food insecurity create ideal conditions for HIV/AIDS infection. Once endemic, HIV/AIDS then severely reduces the productive capacity of the poor, creating a downward spiral of infection and desperation. HIV/AIDS is absorbing an increasing amount of disposable income for palliative care. It is now common for rural households to be composed of elderly family members and their grandchildren, with a whole generation—the productive labour force—having fallen victim to AIDS. This has eliminated the labour force required to meet the demands of subsistence food production. In Africa, in recognition that HIV/AIDS is much more than a preventive education and health issue, all rural development programs must acknowledge the impacts of HIV/AIDS on the productive capacity and food security of target rural communities. This lesson is being integrated into Canada's Official Development Assistance.

Food security is a major determinant of health, and requires collaboration among many partners domestically as well. Local areas or regions can be negatively affected by various factors, such as prolonged drought, serious flooding, loss of major markets, and closure of a major employer.

Similarly, growing evidence supports the importance of basic health, water and sanitation, and nutrition education programming in conjunction with those supporting the availability and access to food to ensure real food security.

Implementing the Right to Food

Civil society feels that dialoguing with appropriate departments and levels of government on various aspects of the Right to Food has resulted only in slow progress. Discussions to date have covered the implementation of framework legislation and mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the right to food, including access to courts, tribunals, human rights commissions or ombudsmen to seek remedies for the violation of the right to adequate food.

The federal government's recent housing and homelessness initiative built a cooperative model that brought together more than 15 federal departments. Together they can better respond to this issue affecting Canada's major centres. This initiative has brought together the provinces and non-governmental organizations to respond to the needs of homeless people. Using this model, Canada can respond to the issues of the right to food and food security for its population. More coordination and more serious consideration of the implications of national and international responsibilities flowing from the recognition of people's right to food is necessary in order to have effective rights in this domain.

VI NEXT STEPS

This section represents a compilation of the information provided by the various contributors as to the future plans or intentions of their department, agency or organization, together with conclusions reached during discussions at the meetings of the Joint Consultative Group on Food Security.

Canada is committed to the continued involvement of a range of stakeholders in shaping food security-related policy and programming commitments. For example, civil society is involved in the preparations for, and will be included in the delegations to, the WFS: *five years later*, the Committee on World Food Security, and Rio+10. Canada regards itself as a multilateral team player and will continue to support reforms and efficiencies with the multilateral development initiatives (MDIs).

Identifying the Food Insecure and Monitoring Progress

In order for Canada to assist in broader and ongoing efforts to identify better the food insecure—both domestically and internationally—and the causes of food insecurity, analysis and consultation should continue. Baselines and monitoring systems should be established, using agreed upon indicators, and monitoring systems established. This will then enable a reliable assessment of the overall effect of domestic and international policies and programs on food security, and the support in our food security programming for those most in need/at risk. While much work is underway in this area, the Food Security Bureau proposes to bring the various actors together and work toward a more coordinated approach. Civil society will continue to use current proxies until the appropriate measures become available. Efforts will be made to broaden this cooperation regionally and with the FAO.

In summary, the primary areas proposed for focus are:

- an improved understanding of the food insecure and the causes of food insecurity in various contexts;
- the development of appropriate food security indicators;
- improved stakeholder coordination and reporting through the use of standard indicators; and
- policies and programs conducive to sustainable food security based on improved availability of information.

Strengthening International Agreements and Regulatory Frameworks

International food safety and animal and plant health frameworks provide an essential architecture to govern the international exchange of food, animals and plants. The continued development of a coherent international regulatory framework, which is both science-based and rules-based, benefits all countries by providing producers with stable markets and consumers with safe and high-quality products. To this end, Canada will continue to participate in international fora, including: the United Nations' World Health Organization, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environmental Program, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the *Office International des Épizooties*, the International Plant Protection Convention, the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, the North American Free Trade Agreement, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, individual negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and discussions on food safety and biotechnology at G8 Summits.

Canada will continue to participate in a highly visible leadership role in international initiatives to manage persistent organic pollutants (POPs) through working with other governments to encourage early ratification of the Stockholm Convention, and through participating in discussions and negotiations concerning the addition of future substances to international POPs agreements. Plans also include the publishing of the final *Prior Informed Consent Regulations* under the Rotterdam Convention, in the fall 2002.

Canada will continue to be active in implementing the Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change, and Desertification, as well as supporting the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Canada is committed to pursuing reform in the system of international trade in agriculture within the context of the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the Free Trade Area of the Americas ensuring, among other things, a reduction in production- and trade-distorting domestic subsidies, the elimination of export subsidies and substantial improvements in market access for agricultural products. At the same time, Canada is expanding its undertaking to provide trade capacity building for developing countries to enable them to participate in, and benefit from, the global economy.

Domestic Food Access and Safety, Health and Environmental Initiatives

The Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments are working with the agriculture and agri-food industry and interested Canadians to develop an architecture for agricultural policy for the 21st century. The objective is for Canada to be the world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally-responsible production.

To realize this vision, governments have agreed in principle on an action plan for an agricultural policy framework composed of five elements: food safety and food quality, environment, science and innovation, renewal, and business risk management. The framework, which is based on the setting of common goals for each element, entails important benefits for the sector and ultimately the general public.

Accordingly, governments have launched a national dialogue about the policy direction with stakeholders and interested Canadians to develop the proposed policy approach.

Through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada, Canada will review domestic requirements in relation to international food inspection and safety standards (that is, *Codex Alimentarius*). Priority will be given to the following committees as they deal with broad, horizontal issues:

- the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene;
- the Codex Committee on General Principles; and
- the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems.

Health Canada has provided funds to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (INAC) to carry out a series of pilot projects in communities eligible for Food Mail. The purpose of Food Mail is to reduce the cost of nutritious perishable food to isolated communities. The pilot projects will determine effective combinations of reduced freight charges, increased nutrition education and skill building activities, and increased retailer promotion of nutritious foods. The first pilot project got under way in December 2001 in Kugaaruk, Nunavut, with the participation of INAC, Health Canada and the Government of Nunavut. These projects will provide some of the additional knowledge required to fulfil INAC's commitment to develop a more comprehensive strategy for improving food security in isolated northern communities, as part of that department's *Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001-2003*.

Planned national programs in the areas of crop and animal protection and production, which are normally collaborative multi-stakeholder efforts, to establish and promote standards and best management practices, include:

- the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Program;
- the Matching Investment Initiative;
- the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative; and
- the Livestock Environmental Initiative.

These areas will also benefit from short and long-term activities and programming relative to agri-environmental indicators, climate change, ozone-depleting substances (methyl bromide), and biodiversity/habitat protection.

Also planned are the continuation of the Agri-Environmental Indicators Project (AEIP) and Farm Environmental Management Survey (FEMS) under the National Agri-Environmental Health and Reporting Program (NAHARP). AAFC will implement its second Sustainable Development Strategy, *Agriculture in Harmony with Nature: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Sustainable Development Strategy, 2001-2004*, which is posted on AAFC's Web site at *http://aceis.agr.ca/policy/environment/eb/public_html/ebe/sum_sds.html*.

Expanding International Development Programs

In his presentation to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico on March 21, 2002, Prime Minister Chrétien announced that Canada would be increasing its allocation to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by about 8 percent per year. This should result in Canada doubling our current aid performance in eight or nine years. Canada's Budget 2001[14] provides $1 billion over three years for a new Africa Fund, for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Afghanistan, and for other international assistance.

In his speech to the Plenary Session of the World Economic Forum on February 1, 2002, Prime Minister Chrétien stated that debt relief initiatives for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) will continue to be one of Canada's priorities. He noted that Canadian governments have forgiven over $1 billion in foreign debt owed to Canada by developing countries, and on January 1st, 2001, Canada stopped collecting debt payments from 11 HIPCs who have committed to reform.

Canada is committed to knowledge-based development programming, and continues to analyze and consult on issues relevant to food security programming. In the near term, these include an analysis of food security frameworks and programming implications, and research projects aimed at a better understanding of the impact of small-scale agricultural initiatives on nutrition and on household food security, and such challenging issues as biotechnology, land tenure and the relationship between trade and poverty.

Canada continues to work to promote greater food security for nutritional well-being in developing countries, while paying broader attention to social and economic development to reduce poverty. CIDA's *Social Development Priorities: A Framework for Action* identifies four areas that will be strengthened over the next five years. These include health and nutrition. Moreover, in countries where food security is identified as a programming priority, a broader, more integrated approach to food security, in support of production, access and utilization, is being advocated through new programming and projects under development. This is complemented by ongoing multilateral efforts, including breastfeeding promotion, developmental and emergency food aid, and support to IFAD and to agricultural research through CGIAR. In implementing ongoing and new initiatives, Canada expects to continue to encourage civil society involvement, and to pay attention to documenting experiences and gaining better corporate appreciation for what works and does not under various circumstances.

Canada, as a member of the G8, provided leadership in the creation of a new working group on Africa and has committed to building a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an integrated plan of action endorsed by 52 member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The plan addresses a range of issues crucial to African development, including combating hunger and increasing food security. In support of this commitment, Canada has promoted development in Africa as the main theme for the June 2002 G8 Summit, and has committed to the establishment of a $500 million trust fund[14] to enable Canada to work in partnership with African countries.

Strengthening NGO/CSO Projects

Those civil society organizations (CSOs) and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contributing to the development of this report have indicated their intentions to continue with existing projects and programs. Increased attention will be paid to the important links between nutritional programming and other food security activities. The following is a list of priorities:

- The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group intends to strengthen its documentation of the links between food security and international agricultural trade; will continue its dialogue with Canadian officials on food security in ODA policy with a view to re-establishing the importance of food security programming in such areas as food aid and sustainable agricultural development; and will carry out educational efforts and advocacy among politicians and the wider Canadian public on food security issues.
- Canadian civil society will continue to push for improved domestic and international funding and support to families through programs that ensure physical and economical access to safe, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food.
- The Canadian civil society organizations involved in domestic food security are implementing a Canadian Food Security Network.
- Civil society proposes that an important next step concerning the right to food in Canada and internationally is a plan for its implementation. Civil society urges federal and provincial governments, in consultation with civil society, to implement framework legislation or mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the right to food, including access to courts, tribunals, human rights commissions or ombudsmen, to seek remedies for the violation of the right to adequate food.
- The *Union des producteurs agricoles* intends to encourage African farmers to join organizations that help them market their products more effectively, as they are realizing the value of combining their efforts to obtain better conditions of sale.
- PARTNERS in Rural Development, in cooperation with CIDA, IFAD, the IDB and others, hopes to: expand its food security program in Ghana; re-engage in food security programs in Southern Africa, with a focus on family survivors of AIDS; establish a network of NGOs for the purpose of

linking very localized food security projects with international and national research institutes; build a sustainable program in Vietnam that focuses on agro-forestry and land management techniques; and establish agri-food processing projects in Indonesia and Guyana.

- USC's SoS program intends to focus on programs that build upon diverse crop genetic resources, farmers' knowledge and practices; address environmental protection, food security and agricultural sustainability in the various production systems of its partner countries. It will facilitate the exchange of ideas, information, experiences, methodologies, results and genetic materials among farming communities and environments with relatively similar agro-ecological conditions and development challenges.
- World Vision plans to integrate a trade-related analysis with its food security program.

VII UPDATE ON PARTS OF CANADA'S FIRST PROGRESS REPORT (DECEMBER 1999)

This section of the report has been included as some organizations wished the opportunity to update information they submitted for the previous report, which can be found on the Food Security Bureau's Web site *www.agr.ca/misb/fsb/FSB2eng.html*. As these contributions were unsolicited, the following is only a limited update of the previous report.

Commitment One: An Enabling Environment

We will ensure an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for the durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.

Domestic

Action - Undertake a major increase in efforts to educate Canadians about food security issues and to support initiatives geared toward enhanced involvement of citizens in achieving community food security.

Two Provinces, British Columbia and Ontario have provided up-dating information on their activities towards informing the public.

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are collaborating on programs that include food insecurity issues. NGO activity includes that of the British Columbia members of the Dieticians of Canada[17] who have collaborated to bring data and information forward to inform decision makers. A number of ways communities in that province are taking action to increase food access and hunger awareness is reported. Also, the Community Nutritionists Council of BC developed a discussion paper[8] on genetic engineering and food for its members. This deals with health and safety, sustainability, politics and consumer issues and frequently-asked questions.

In Ontario, the Ontario Nutrition and Food Security Network has established a Web site *www.opha.om.ca/foodnet* to share information and connect health professionals and interested individual members in an effort to:

- increase support for research, planning and implementation of provincial policies or options related to food security;
- increase usage of the Web site and the "Listserv e-mail" forum;
- profile existing programs and issues related to three goals of the Network: Access to Food, Sustainable Food Production, and Food and Health; and
- promote food consumption patterns that maximize health and minimize disease.

The Network has learned these steps are necessary to:

- actively associate online (virtual) community development of food security initiatives with off-line (real) activities;
- make the content of the e-mail forum and Web site meaningful to the intended audience;
- establish an electronic strategy for Foodnet; and

- sustain funding for the monitoring and posting of information.

The Web site and e-mail forum have been operational since April 2000. Archived messages are available on the Web site, and Network membership now exceeds 150 subscribers. The group plans to continue partnership support for the Network and to seek funding to continue the facilitation of Web site and e-mail forum, and to allow funding for face-to-face meetings where possible (such as the Ryerson Conference in June 2001).

The Canadian NGO Food Security Policy Group maintains contact with many Canadian Members of Parliament, and, on World Food Day in 2001, made a presentation before a joint session of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade, on Canada's role in combating hunger worldwide, as did officials of AAFC and CIDA.

Action - Encourage dialogue on food security issues that will translate to policy reflection and change, based on public education, sound research and open and participatory governance, in order to engage all sectors of the population and ensure that the needs and priorities of all are represented.

Members of civil society have identified the need for a Canadian Food Security Network—a network of citizens, farmers, community organizers, health practitioners, researchers, academics, policy makers and consumers who view access to food as a basic human right and demand that people's health and well-being should be the first priority of the food system. The FAO's decision to hold the WFS+5*: five years later,* which provided an opportunity for input from civil society, emphasized the need for a forum to discuss emerging issues. As a result, the "Working Together: Civil Society Input for Food Security in Canada Conference" was conceived by the Centre for Studies in Food Security at Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto, as the first stage of a five-year research program to evaluate existing food security initiatives at the local, regional, national, and international levels in Canada, and to contribute to the policy making process, thereby monitoring the implementation of Canada's Action Plan for Food Security.

The Conference was held in June 2001 at the Ryerson Polytechnic University. This invitation-only event brought together over 150 representatives of various Canadian food security organizations, food banks, community health agencies, social service agencies, farmers' organizations, and representatives of various government agencies. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Health Canada, and the International Development Research Centre provided funding.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- develop a working plan for a civil society-based national action plan for food security;
- assess the contributions of Canadian governments to food security nationally and internationally; and
- make practical policy proposals to provincial and federal governments on achieving the goals of *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security.*

The outputs of the Conference were:

- principles guiding action on food security;
- recommendations to the World Food Summit;
- recommendations to Canadian governments;
- recommendations to food security advocates represented at the conference; and
- a resolution for the creation of a national Canadian Food Security Network.

The report of the conference is being posted on the Ryerson Polytechnic University Web site *www.ryerson.ca/~foodsec/foodsec/worki.htm.*

The Canadian Food Security Network has been established at Ryerson. To overcome problems with duplicate messages and viruses, messages to *Food-Democracy* or the *Canadian Food Security Network* should be sent directly to Mustafa Koc at *mkoc@ryerson.ca* or *foodsec@ryerson.ca* addresses. Following monitoring, they will then be forwarded to the network.

International

Action - Provide technical assistance bilaterally, through the multilateral development system, and partners to support efforts of developing countries and countries in transition to put in place policies, legislation and programs conducive to sustainable development, poverty reduction and food security.

Canada's Official Development Assistance is provided on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. Projects with individual countries on a bilateral basis are the most common, however, funding is provided to multilateral organizations such as the Global Environment Facility and the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research.

The International Development Research Centre has provided information on several of their projects:

- Program on Governance, Equity and Health supports "the dual goals of promoting equitable outcomes in health and of promoting inclusion and effective citizenship for all members of a given society." The goal is to "promote and examine evidence-based choices in service delivery for health, particularly in health sector reform, in order to improve equity of health outcomes and promote citizen participation across all sectors of society."

- Tanzania Essential Health Interventions Program "examines the feasibility of institutionalizing an approach to health planning that relies on 'burden of disease' and 'cost effectiveness' as conceptual tools for setting priorities and for allocating health resources at the district level. The project's overall objective is to test the feasibility and measure the impact of an evidence-based approach to health planning at the district level."

- Small Enterprise and Livelihoods Pilot Projects reports: "The overall development problem to be addressed in the pilot projects is the creation of employment in Africa and the Middle East through small business. The pilots are built around three themes: value chain analysis, the potential of e-commerce to increase productivity, and the enabling environment for employment-generating businesses."

- Small and Medium Enterprise Policy Development Project was developed in 2000 to support the efforts of the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade to develop policies, legislation and regulations to improve the overall policy climate for SME development.

Action - Support the effective implementation of the *Highly Indebted Poor Country Debt Initiative*.

Canada has been a leader in debt relief. Canadian governments have forgiven over $1 billion in foreign debt owed to us by developing countries. On January 1st, 2001, Canada stopped collecting debt payments from 11 highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) who have committed to reform. This will continue to be one of our priorities[16].

Action - Encourage developing countries and countries in transition to adopt stable monetary and fiscal policies, which will achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth and increase access to food.

The International Development Research Centre has provided information, also, on several of their projects in this area:

- Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies Program is "to assist developing countries to analyze and create their own policies and programs that achieve the goals of economic stabilization and adjustment while reducing poverty and softening impacts on vulnerable groups."

- Eco Plata Project is intended to generate a multidisciplinary approach to improve coastal resource management in the Rio de la Plata fluvio-marine ecosystem separating Uruguay and Argentina. The aim of this phase is to establish a multi-stakeholder integrated coastal zone management initiative involving:

    - research in fisheries, oceanography, environmental protection, and urban planning;
    - development of a coastal policy and planning framework with national and municipal authorities;
    - establishment of sustainable financial mechanisms for coastal management;
    - promotion of Canadian partnerships; and
    - technology transfer for coastal management.

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[16] Address by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to the World Economic Forum Plenary Session, February 1, 2002, New York, New York.

Commitment Two: Access to Food

We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, top sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.

Domestic

Action - In partnership with the provinces and territories, help prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty and promote attachment to the workforce through the National Child Benefit System, an initiative that involves improved income benefits, programs and services to families.

With respect to child poverty, the federal, provincial and territorial governments launched the National Child Benefit (NCB) in 1998. This joint initiative provides a national platform of child benefits for low-income families, with three goals:

- to help prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty;
- to promote attachment to the labour market by ensuring that families will always be better off as a result of working; and
- to reduce overlap and duplication of government programs.

The NCB was designed to make sure that families leaving social assistance are better off working. It provides a basic level of income support for Canadian children in low-income families, regardless of whether these families are in the labour market or receiving social assistance. As a result, it is now easier for some low-income parents to move into and stay in employment, because parents receive a greater portion of their income support for their children outside of the social assistance system.

In turn, most provinces, territories and First Nations have adjusted the income support they provide to children through social assistance programs, while ensuring total benefits to those families remain at least as high as they were before the NCB was introduced. Provinces, territories and First Nations are reinvesting these funds and making additional investments in new or enhanced programs and services for low-income families in five areas:

- child benefits and earned income supplements;
- child/day care initiatives;
- early childhood services and children-at-risk services;
- supplementary health benefits; and
- other services.

Since 1998, the Government of Canada has invested $2.4 billion in the NCB. Effective July 2001, it announced another major increase in benefits for low-income families, with a $740 million investment in the NCB. As a result, the maximum annual benefit for a family with two children, for example, will reach approximately $4,800 by 2004.

In September 2000, an agreement on Early Childhood Development was reached between the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial governments. Under this agreement, the Canadian government will invest $2.2 billion, over the next five years, to support the expansion of provincial programs in four areas:

- promoting healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy;
- improving parenting and family supports;
- strengthening early childhood development, learning and care; and
- strengthening community support.

These enhanced programs and services will help to ensure that children receive the best possible start in life.

In its 2000 *Budget and Economic Statement*, the Government of Canada introduced and expanded upon a five-year plan to provide real and lasting tax relief for Canadians, with a special emphasis on the needs of families with children. Under the plan, which took effect January 1, 2001, the Government introduced the most important changes to the federal tax system in more than a decade, restoring full indexation to protect against inflation and reducing Canadian families' average income tax burden by 27 percent.

As an example of complementary provincial programs, the Province of Manitoba has introduced a Prenatal Benefit, the "Healthy Baby" program. Pregnant women who live in Manitoba and meet the income criteria, including those women who live in First Nations communities, will be eligible for prenatal benefits commencing in the second trimester of pregnancy. Eligibility is modeled on the National Child Benefit (NCB). Federal child benefits begin after the baby is born. Together, federal and provincial benefits offer longer-term financial security for families. Programs and outreach encourage early and regular prenatal care, bring nutrition to life through snacks and cooking activities, build women's confidence and awareness of health and parenting choices, and foster awareness of babies' nurturing needs. There is clear evidence that informal and practical programs attract women who avoid mainstream medical and instructional services. To complement this new program, the Manitoba government is also completely ending the social assistance adjustment of the National Child Benefit Supplement for thousands of families on income assistance with children six years of age and under.

Also in Manitoba, "Healthy Child Manitoba", which was created previously to focus resources on early childhood development, is led by the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet. It has provided funding for 22 parent-child centred activities, as well as the expansion of the successful program to Northern Manitoba centres.

Action - Increase opportunities for labour force participation of persons with disabilities and Aboriginal people.

The Canadian government's 2000 *Federal Budget and Economic Statement* introduced a number of measures for Canadians with disabilities which are:

- continued funding of $30 million annually for the Opportunities Fund, which supports projects that help persons with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs;
- an estimated $145 million in increased tax assistance for persons with disabilities and their caregivers;
- $11.5 million over three years for the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS); and
- improved access to study grants for persons with learning disabilities.

In March 2001, federal, provincial and territorial governments released the *In Unison 2000* report, which presents societal indicators as well as individual stories and effective practices that highlight the challenges adults with disabilities face, and what governments, individual employers and others are doing to address this situation.

The 2000 Speech from the Throne commits the federal government to working with provinces and territories and other partners towards a comprehensive labour market strategy for persons with disabilities. At the time of writing, this work was underway.

Responding to what was a growing visible social problem in Canada's major urban centres, the Government of Canada launched the *National Homelessness Initiative* (NHI) in December 1999. The $753-million, three-year initiative is designed to foster effective partnerships and investments that help alleviate homelessness. The National Secretariat on Homelessness (NSH) has the lead responsibility for coordinating the NHI, as well as supporting the Minister of Labour's role as the Federal Coordinator on Homelessness.

The cornerstone of the NHI is the $305-million *Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative* (SCPI). Recognizing that the best solutions are to be found at the community level, SCPI assists communities in planning and implementing comprehensive local strategies to help reduce the numbers of homeless persons, and to support those who are at risk of becoming homeless. The focus is on supporting the development of communities' capacity for planning, setting priorities and administering initiatives to address local homelessness issues. The initiative's community-based approach allows a broad range of players, including the provinces, territories and municipalities, to come together to address local needs.

Eighty percent of the SCPI funding is targeted to the 10 cities that are most affected by homelessness: Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Halifax. The remaining 20 percent is distributed to smaller communities that have a significant rate of homelessness.

The NHI has several other components, some of which are administered by other federal departments or agencies. This comprises new and enhanced federal investments made to address the needs of particularly vulnerable groups (including youth and Aboriginal Persons) to expand programs upgrading or modifying residences for the homeless and those at risk, and to make surplus federal real property available for housing.

NHI funding is earmarked as follows:

• SCPI (core program)	$ 305 million
• Youth Homelessness Component	$ 59 million
• Urban Aboriginal Strategy	$ 59 million
• Shelter Enhancement Program (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation [CMHC])	$ 43 million
• Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (CMHC)	$ 268 million
• Federal Real Property for the Homeless Fund (Public Works and Government Services Canada)	$ 10 million

Community partners have stated that the initiative is addressing urgent/emergency needs and assisting in the development of a broad range of new services. As of December 2001, it is estimated that the SCPI, Youth, and Urban Aboriginal Strategy project investments, totaling $9 million, have contributed to the construction or renovation of 75 food depots/banks, clothes/furniture depots/banks, drop-in centres and soup kitchens. Of this amount, $630,000 was provided to food banks.

Communities are responding positively to the opportunities presented through SCPI and are indicating that the SCPI model is effective in mobilizing communities, building capacity, strengthening stakeholder collaboration, building partnerships and leveraging additional resources.

Action - Through all provinces and territories, increase the employability of young people through targeted scholarships and job creation programs.

The Government of Canada, through its Youth Employment Strategy, will improve labour market transitions for youth through the provision of career and labour market information, work experience opportunities and access to learning.

Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, delivered in cooperation with 14 federal departments and agencies, is the federal government's action plan to increase the employability of young Canadians. As part of this strategy, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), through its Youth Initiatives Directorate, put in place its youth employment initiatives to prepare youth for, and to participate in, the world of work.

HRDC's youth employment initiatives draw on four main programs:

- Youth Internship Canada provides wage subsidies to employers who create meaningful work experiences for unemployed and underemployed youth.
- Youth Service Canada provides funding to organizations that develop work opportunities in community service projects for youth at greatest risk of unemployment.
- Student Summer Job Action offers wage subsidies to employers who create career-related summer jobs; provides interest-free business loans for young entrepreneurs who wish to start a summer business; promotes "Hire A Student" efforts; and provides summer employment offices to facilitate the creation of summer work experiences for secondary and post-secondary students.
- Information funds activities that heighten awareness on youth issues and provide youth with access to information they need to make informed decisions regarding their education and career choices in Canada's labour market.

Action - Implement actions in *Nutrition for Health: An Agenda for Action* (1996), including:

- **work to include and maintain nutrition services as part of comprehensive health services in both existing and evolving community-based and home-care settings;**
- **improve the usefulness of nutrition labelling, increase its availability, and broaden public education on its use;**
- **work with the food services sector and publicly funded organizations, such as schools, hospitals and government agencies, to promote the increased availability of foods that support healthy eating.**

At the Federal level, on June 16, 2001, Health Canada published proposed regulations to make nutrition labelling mandatory on most packaged foods.

A number of the Provinces reported a variety of activities in support of this action statement.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has approved a nutrition supplement for all women who are pregnant and for infants under one, for families with a net income of less than $21,744. In addition, the province is in the process of developing a Provincial Food and Nutrition Policy, *Eating Healthier in Newfoundland and Labrador*, to help individuals and communities achieve nutritional well-being. This policy will serve as a framework to guide and support government, organizations, community groups, industry and citizens in decisions about food and nutrition. The draft document includes the development of indicators to measure progress, and notes that the provincial rate of breastfeeding initiation has increased 41 percent since 1992, and that 63 percent of the senior population is aware of *Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating*. At the time of writing, the document was with stakeholder groups for consultation.

The Province of Prince Edward Island has increased the food allowance for social assistance recipients and the additional pregnancy food allowance for those on assistance. Over the last two years, a number of breakfast programs have been set up across the province by organizations such as the University of Prince Edward Island, the Eastern School District Red Cross, individual schools, and regional health authorities. The elementary health education curriculum, including nutrition, is being revised.

The Province of New Brunswick implemented the "Healthy Minds" school nutrition program to provide free nutritious food to hungry schoolchildren from kindergarten to grade three. Public Health nutritionists have been available to provide guidance to school districts, school staff and parents on the importance of healthy eating and food safety. Organizational flexibility, tailoring programs to local needs, and community/intersectoral involvement are important factors for the success of programs. The province will be introducing a prenatal benefit program that will give low-income women more funding and information to encourage healthy food and lifestyle choices during pregnancy.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services of Quebec, in cooperation with the Quebec Council of Social Research, has funded a research project to examine the effects of alternative practices on food insecurity in the regions of Quebec. The research report, by Rouffignat, Dubois and Panet-Raymond[15], will direct the support actions for food security in the regions of Quebec.

The Ontario Association of Food Banks (OAFB) has developed several innovative arrangements with producer organizations and commercial enterprises. The Ontario Milk Program, started by one dairy farmer donating milk to a local food bank, involves about 450 farmers represented through the Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO), most major processing plants represented through the Ontario Dairy Council (ODC), and the Ontario Milk Transporters Association (OMTA). The milk program, which began in 1994 with annual donations of 22 000 litres, reached annual donations in 2000 of about 550,000 litres of fresh milk for about 80 OAFB member food banks. These food banks serve an average of about 200,000 people per month (over 40 percent of whom are children). This follows the charitable model of Manitoba's milk producers' program started in 1990.

The Ontario Hog Program was started by one pork farmer who, on hearing that food bank donations were down for a local food drive in 1999, enlisted other pork farmers to help out those less fortunate. With processing and delivery donated by a meat packer, the local food bank received a total of 895 kg of fresh pork loin. The idea has now spread throughout the province and has been modified with the last campaign seeing over 100 farmers donating money to Ontario Pork which was then turned over to the OAFB, with the provision that they buy pork products at preferred rates from one of the big pork processors.

Also in Ontario, a grocery supermarket initiated a "Check Out Hunger Campaign." Patrons are asked to add $1.00 to their grocery bill which is then donated to their local food bank. The campaign also raises awareness of food insecurity province-wide. For most participating food banks, the money raised represents a significant portion of their budgets and is critical to their grocery and meal programs. The food banks are able to purchase food at wholesale, charitable rates. BC Share is a similar charitable campaign supporting retail food store patrons to donate at the cash register to buy BC grown food products.

In British Columbia, the Okanagan Gleaners was founded by a small group of people who wanted to do something with the food they saw being wasted each day in the fields and orchards. They are funded through volunteer contribution and are also supported by various community groups, such as World Vision and the Mennonite Central Committee Canada. Volunteers collect and prepare the produce, get it ready for drying, and work in collaboration with a local company to package granola. The group's mandate is mostly international and goods are shipped to needy countries/populations by larger community groups (World Vision and the Mennonite Central Committee Canada).

Action - Support the implementation of the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)/Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) in Canada, toward creating a global breastfeeding-friendly environment.

The Province of New Brunswick reports that they are continuing to support the implementation of the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI), based on a social marketing model.

Action - Work together to build the dimension of food security and traditional food access into existing policies and activities that affect traditional food acquisition; for example, the promotion of food security in sustainable development activities and health promotion.

In Canada, food security remains an important issue for First Nations and Inuit people. Local food action activities, such as community kitchens and community gardens, have been supported through community-based initiatives such as the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. To improve the quality of perishable foods available in isolated communities on the Labrador coast, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Canada Post have developed guidelines on how to properly package, store and transport fresh and frozen food to these communities. If these guidelines and associated training prove effective, they will be expanded to other communities receiving food shipments under the Food Mail Program.

Action - Agree upon a set of domestic food insecurity indicators that can be used to assess the extent and distribution of food insecurity across the country.

The Government of Canada, through Health Canada, commissioned a discussion paper[18] that examines the various direct and indirect indicators of food insecurity, discusses the gaps in current understanding of the issue, and makes recommendations for further study. The four direct measures of food insecurity employed in recent North American studies are reviewed. The author indicates (p 76) that "the Food

Security Core module, recently developed for use in monitoring food insecurity and hunger in the U.S., provides a brief, well-designed, and thoroughly calibrated measure of severity that may be suitable for use on Canadian population surveys with minimal additional work."

Action - Establish a baseline of information on food insecurity indicators, including indicators of nutritional status; provide ongoing monitoring; and ensure resulting information is published regularly, incorporated into future policy and programming, and contributes to international monitoring efforts.

Canada is developing a protocol for a national nutrition survey anticipated to be in the field in 2004, the first of its kind in 30 years. Data on dietary intake, food insecurity, breastfeeding and psycho-social determinants of eating behaviour will be explored.

Provincially, the Province of New Brunswick is currently working on the development of a Provincial Food Basket based on the national and Ontario templates, and the Province of Prince Edward Island has just revised the costing protocol for the nutritious food basket and special diets to reflect current consumption patterns and assist in setting the food allowance in that province.

International

Action - Review existing programs related to food security, involving the most vulnerable groups, and establish options for increasing the impact of ODA on those who are most food insecure.

Canada, through the International Development Reasearch Centre's Cities Feeding People program, "seeks to remove constraints and enhance the potential for urban agriculture interventions to improve household food security, income generation, public health, and waste and land management for the benefit of the urban poor."

The NGO, PARTNERS in Rural Development, is supporting two initiatives to learn from food security programs and identify options best suited to the most vulnerable and food insecure. These are:

- documentation of lessons learned from their existing programs, for publication on the organization's Web site; and
- support for a five-country study being undertaken by the Philippines-based NGO, ANGOC, in 200 Southeast Asian villages.

The latter will identify the status of food security in each village, along with possible community actions to address food insecurity. Both initiatives are gathering information and practical evidence to demonstrate the strategic value of agriculture and food security programs in efforts to reduce rural poverty. This, in turn, will help define what changes are required in policies and in ODA allocations so that food security will be enhanced.

Action - Continue to support and promote enhancements to the nutritional adequacy of foods through support to efforts to eliminate Vitamin A deficiency, iodine deficiency disorders, and to reduce iron deficiency anaemia by the year 2000, including supporting the Micronutrient Initiative.

Canada, through CIDA, strongly supports the Micronutrient Initiative (MI) in general, one of its technology transfer programs in particular, and the World Vision Canada Micronutrients and Health (MICAH) project. The MI was established in 1992 to address the widespread problem of micronutrient deficiencies that affect more than two billion people and are a leading cause of disease, disability and death. Since its creation, the MI has successfully implemented programs in over 70 countries, becoming a leader in the elimination of iodine and vitamin A deficiencies. The MI has established itself as a lead technical agency in fortification and has played a critical role in the establishment of new international public/private sector partnerships for salt iodization and staple food fortification. One objective of the MICAH project in Malawi, Ethiopia and Senegal was to diversify household food consumption.

Canada supported the creation of a global fortification fund at the MI in 1998. Valued at $10 million over two years, the fund has promoted the fortification of staple foods in over 20 countries. For example:

- several foods, including oil, milk, sugar, weaning foods, soy sauce and fish sauce, are being fortified in China, Vietnam, Brazil and Ecuador;
- wheat fortification programs are being implemented in several countries in the Middle East Region and in Pakistan; and
- in collaboration with UNICEF, sugar and maize flour fortification is being expanded throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Increasing trade liberalization is a potential threat to fortification success, since unfortified foods may cross borders. As a result, an important contribution of this fund has been the harmonization of fortification levels and quality assurance systems across the Central American region.

The MI has also supported other programs that promote the production, processing and consumption of foods that naturally contain high levels of micronutrients. In Africa the MI has supported programs to increase the availability and utilization of red palm oil and sweet potatoes, both containing high levels of vitamin A. In the Philippines, the MI is testing the acceptability and bioavailability of iron and zinc in newly developed strains of rice that are rich in these nutrients.

Also, IDRC's Micronutrient Initiative (MI) was established in 1992 to help harmonize global activities to achieve micronutrient-related goals. The MI's mission is to support effective and sustainable programs that work towards virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders; virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness; and the reduction of iron deficiency anemia in women.

Commitment Five: Emergency Prevention and Preparedness

We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies, and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.

Action - Continue to support peacebuilding initiatives by strengthening the long-term foundations such as a strong civil society, democratic government, respect for human rights, venues and training for peaceful conflict resolution, and the reduction of the roots of conflict, such as poverty and inequality.

Canada, through the IDRC, has a Program on Peacebuilding and Reconstruction to "support knowledge generation, policy development and research capacity building as tools to assist war-torn countries in their transition to peace and sustainable development."

RECOMMENDED READING

The non-governmental and civil society organizations have recommended the following related reading for background and related information:

Food Security in Canadian Households[3]
A Follow-up Study of Child Hunger in Canada[10]
National Council of Welfare Reports, Child Poverty Profile 1998[11]
National Council of Welfare Reports, Poverty Profile 1998[12]
Hunger Count 2001: Food Bank Lines in Insecure Times[20]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the significant contributions received from some 40 individuals, either personally or on behalf of their department, division, agency or organization. Without their input and cooperation, this report would not have been possible. Particular recognition goes to Jean Christie of Oxfam who consolidated the input from the various non-governmental and civil society organizations involved internationally, and to Diana McLean who performed the same function for the various facets of CIDA. The able assistance of the Editorial Committee, consisting of Stuart Clark, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, David Northcott, Canadian Association of Food Banks, Diana McLean on behalf of CIDA, and Eileen Durand, Food Security Bureau, was much appreciated. – *Ross Reid*

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[17] CNC – Community Nutritionists Council of BC

APPENDIX I

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[20] This is the membership of the Group as of March 15, 2002. This Group was re-constituted in August 2000 and in the interim, some members moved to new positions involving other responsibilities and were replaced, while others joined from groups not previously represented.

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APPENDIX II

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
ABC	Aboriginal Business Canada
ACOA	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
ACRDP	Aquatic Collaborative Research and Development
AEIs	Agri-environmental indicators
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfDF	African Development Fund
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEIP	Agri-Environmental Indicators Project
AFN	Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
AFS	Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy
AIC	Agricultural Institute of Canada
ANGOC	Asian Non-governmental Organization Coalition
AoA	WTO Agreement on Agriculture
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APF	Agricultural Policy Framework
ATP	Allocation Transfer Program
BCC	Breastfeeding Committee for Canada
BDC	Business Development Bank of Canada
BDP	Business Development Program
BFI	Baby-Friendly Initiative
CAFB	Canadian Association of Food Banks
CAIA	Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance
CAPPD	Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
CARCI	Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative
CBDCs	Community Business Development Corporations
CCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CCCDF	Canada Climate Change Development Fund
CCFH	Canadian Council of Fish Harvesters
CCIC	Canadian Council for International Cooperation
CCIP	Canada Community Investment
CCLF	CGIAR-Canada Linkage Fund
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CCNI	Canada–CGIAR Network Initiative
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEC	Commission for Environmental Co-operation
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEPA	Canadian Environmental Protection Agency
CFA	Canadian Federation of Agriculture
CFAR	Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program
CFDCs	Community Futures Development Corporations
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CFIC	China Feed Industry Centre
CFB	Canadian Foodgrains Bank

CFP	Cities Feeding People
CFS	FAO Committee on World Food Security
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CGAP	Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGSB	Canadian General Standards Board
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
CIB	Canadian Institute of Biotechnology
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIDA-INC	CIDA Industrial Cooperation Program
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-États pour la Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
CITs	countries in transition
CMHC	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
CPNP	Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
CPP	Canada Pension Plan
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DET	domestic emissions trading
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DIAND	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
EC	Environment Canada
Ecohealth	Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health
EEPSEA	Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia
EEZ	exclusive economic zones
EVSL	Early Voluntary Sector Liberalization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCC	Farm Credit Canada
FEMS	Farm Environmental Management Survey
FIAN	FoodFirst Information and Action Network
FIMCLA	Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act
FIVIMS	food insecurity and vulnerability information mapping systems
FF/CF	Farm Folk/City Folk
FSB	Food Security Bureau
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
G7	economic and political forum composed of Canada, USA, Japan, France, UK, Germany, Italy and the European Union
G8	Canada, USA, Japan, France, UK, Germany, Italy, Russia and the European Union
G8 DOT Force	G8 Digital Opportunities Task Force
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GPA	Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GRATIS	Ghana Regional Appropriate Technologies Industrial Services project
HC	Health Canada
HEMS	Hog Environment Management Strategy
HIPC	heavily indebted poor countries
HRDC	Human Resources Development Canada
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank

IATP	Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ICT	information and communications technology
IDC/Codex	Interdepartmental Committee for Codex
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDGs	International Development Goals
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIS	Integrated Inspection System
IM	Integrated management
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INAC	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IUPGR	International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LMO	living modified organism
LSVCCs	Labour-sponsored venture capital corporations
MBB	market basket measure
MDIs	multilateral development initiatives
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MII	Matching Investment Initiative
MICAH	Micronutrients and Health
MFD/MED	Microfinance and Microenterprise Development
MCCC	Mennonite Central Committee Canada
MRL	maximum residue level
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NEPED	Nagaland Environmental Protection and Economic Development
NFIDC	Net Food Importing Developing Country
NCB	National Child Benefit
NGO	non-governmental organization
NNFB	national nutritious food basket
NSWCP	National Soil and Water Conservation Program
OAFB	Ontario Association of Food Banks
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPHO	Ontario Public Health Organization
PFRA	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
POPs	persistent organic pollutants
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

RBM	results-based management
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SANFEC	South Asia Network on Food, Ecology and Culture
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SCC	Standards Council of Canada
SoS	Seeds of Survival
SR&ED	scientific research and experimental development
SRSG	Special Representatives of the Secretary General
TIA	Targeting and Impact Assessment Protocol
UBINIG	Policy Research for Development Alternative
UMP-LAC	Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNA Canada	United Nations Association Canada
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFA	United Nations Agreement on Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPADI	Union des producteurs agricoles dévelopment international
USC	Unitarian Service Committee
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	World Food Summit
WHO	World Health Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Social Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WVC	World Vision Canada